

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 8, 2017

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE RELEASES NEW STATE POPULATION PROJECTIONS

SACRAMENTO – New projections showing how California’s population is expected to change by growth, generation, and geography through 2060 were released today by the Department of Finance.

Highlights

From 2016 to 2036, California is projected to grow at an annualized rate of 0.76 percent, adding 6.5 million people. During these 20 years, the share of the population age 65 and older is projected to grow from 14 percent to 23 percent. In 2051, California is projected to join the ranks of Japan and many European countries which have more deaths than births, while migration is expected to keep California’s population growth rate positive. Compared to previous projections (2013 baseline series, published Dec. 2014), the statewide population forecast in 2060 is approximately 1 percent lower, due primarily to lower expected birth rates.

The Hispanic population is projected to grow from 39 percent today to 46 percent by 2060. The Millennial generation (born 1981-1997) was the largest in California as of 2016 (9.4 million or 24 percent of the population). “Generation X” (born 1965-1980) is projected to overtake the Baby Boom generation in total population size by 2019, when both become approximately 20 percent of the population. The San Francisco Bay Area, greater Sacramento region, Central Valley, and Inland Empire regions of the state are projected to grow more quickly than the state overall, each increasing their share of the state’s total population (by 1 to 2 percentage points).

Total population growth

California’s population on July 1, 2016 was 39.4 million. The state is poised to reach a population of 40 million by the year 2018, 45 million by 2035, and 50 million during 2055. Between 2016 and 2060, the state is projected to grow by 30 percent: from 39.4 million to 51.1 million (0.6 percent annually), adding over 11.7 million people (more than the 2016 population of Ohio).

Total population is calculated using projected births, deaths, and migration—collectively, the *components of change*. The crude birth rate¹ has been declining in California since the late 2000s, and is projected to decline further from 12.6 births per 1,000 population in 2015 (490,000 births) to 9.4 per 1,000 in 2060 (475,000 births). As the elderly population grows, the projected number of deaths rises more rapidly: from a crude death rate² of 6.8 deaths per 1,000 population in 2015 (265,000 deaths) to approximately 9.9 per 1,000 in 2060 (505,000 deaths). The number of deaths is projected to exceed the number of births starting in 2051.

Net migration refers to the arrival of people (foreign- or native-born) to California. The rate of net migration is projected to steadily grow from approximately 1.8 net migrants per 1,000 population per year in 2015 (70,000 net migrants) to 4 per 1,000 by 2060 (215,000 net migrants). Projected migration cannot be separated by direction (domestic or foreign flows) due to limitations in the historical data sources used to estimate net migrants.

Population aging

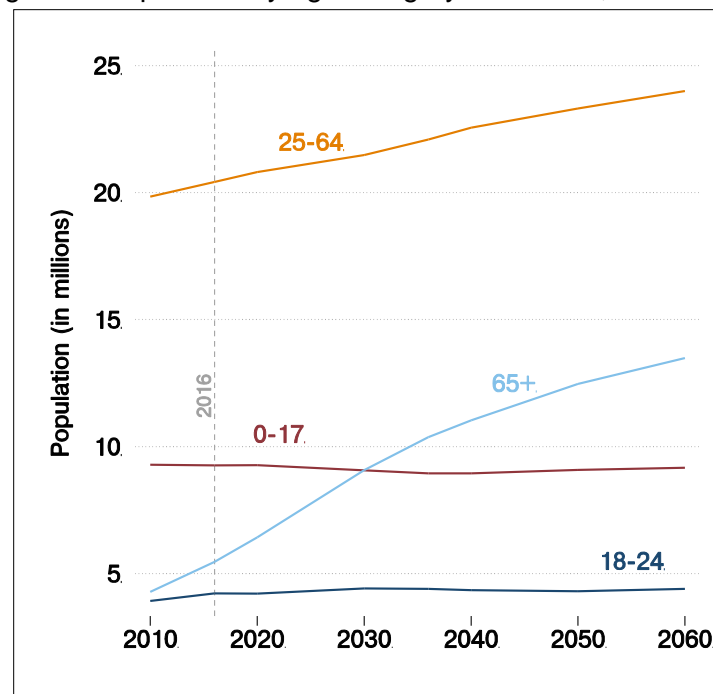
In 2016, 24 percent of the population of California was under age 18 (9.2 million). The working-age population (18-64) was 63 percent of the population (24.6 million), and is projected to decrease modestly as a share of the total population. Growth is expected in the age 65 and over group: it was 14 percent of the population in 2016 (5.5 million), and is projected to grow to 23 percent in 2036 and 26 percent in 2060 (Table 1/Figure 1).

Table 1. Population by age category: California, 2016-2060

	2016		2036		2060	
Total population	39,354,432	100%	45,807,050	100%	51,056,510	100%
Age <18	9,257,380	24%	8,946,985	20%	9,166,821	18%
Age 18-24	4,223,279	11%	4,401,571	10%	4,401,877	9%
Age 25-64	20,413,692	52%	22,087,332	48%	23,999,011	47%
Age 65+	5,460,081	14%	10,371,162	23%	13,488,801	26%
Age 16+	31,171,308	79%	37,951,306	83%	42,995,258	84%

Note: Total of shares may not sum due to rounding.

Figure 1. Population by age category: California, 2010-2060

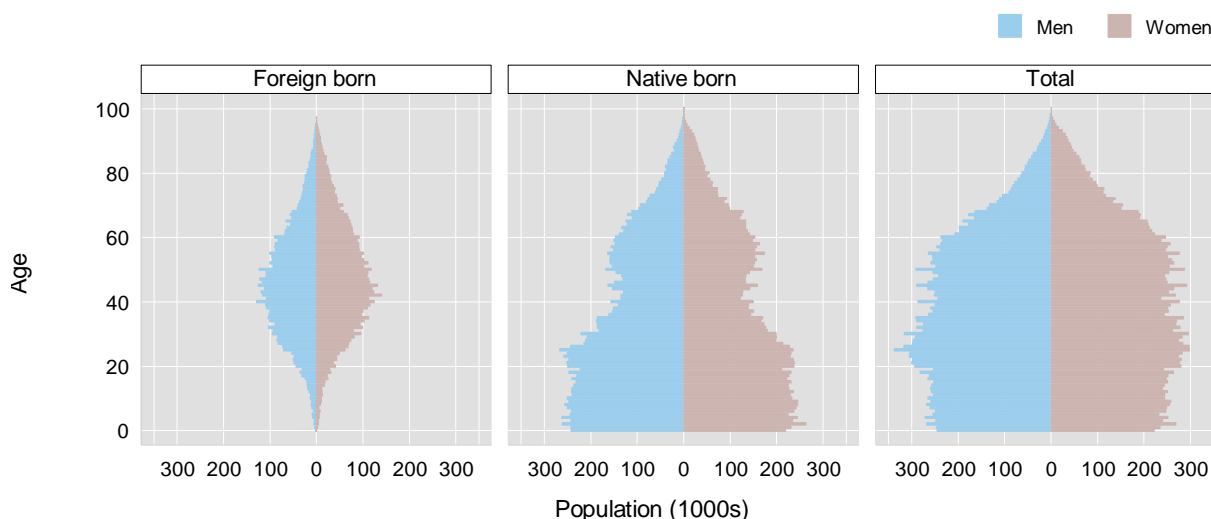


Population aging will be rapid during the next 20 years as a large cohort of Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964) moves into and through retirement. The share of the population age 65 and older is projected to grow rapidly, becoming a larger share of the population in 2030 than children under 18. The median age in California was 36.2 years in 2016, compared to 37.8 years nationwide. By 2036, the state median age is projected to increase to 41 years, and to 45 years in 2060. A large Baby Boom cohort in California kept the state younger than the national average for many years, but the state will see more rapid increases in the elderly population than the rest of the country due to the aging of this cohort over the next decades.

Other important causes of population aging in California are lower fertility rates and greater longevity. The total fertility rate³ has fallen from 2.1 children per woman in 2000 to 1.8 in 2015, and is projected to decrease to 1.6 children per woman by 2060. At the same time, life expectancy at birth has increased from 78 years in 2000 to 81 years in 2015, and is projected to increase to 86 years by 2060.

Migration to California has been a contributor to the youthfulness of the state's population (Figure 2). Foreign-born Californians are concentrated in prime working ages (25-64). Foreign-born Californians have contributed significantly to the state's population growth: over 40 percent of children born in California since 2000 have at least one foreign-born parent.

Figure 2: Age profile of the native and foreign-born populations: California, 2015



Source: American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Survey (PUMS) 1-year file (2015).

Population change by race/ethnicity

A plurality of California is Hispanic, with 39 percent (15 million) claiming Hispanic ethnicity. The Hispanic proportion of the population is projected to grow to 42 percent by 2036 and 46 percent by 2060. The fastest growth is projected for the multiracial and Hispanic populations (Table 2).

Table 2. Population by race and Hispanic ethnicity: California, 2016-2060

	2016		2036		2060	
Total population	39,354,432	100%	45,807,050	100%	51,056,510	100%
Non-Hispanic						
White	15,147,499	38%	15,863,204	35%	15,792,622	31%
Black	2,260,738	6%	2,628,340	6%	2,847,709	6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	165,633	<1%	176,608	<1%	167,582	<1%
Asian/Pacific Islander/Hawaiian	5,302,598	13%	5,864,385	13%	6,081,859	12%
Multiracial (2+ of the above)	1,065,236	3%	1,778,219	4%	2,862,227	6%
Hispanic	15,412,728	39%	19,496,294	43%	23,304,511	46%

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Generational change

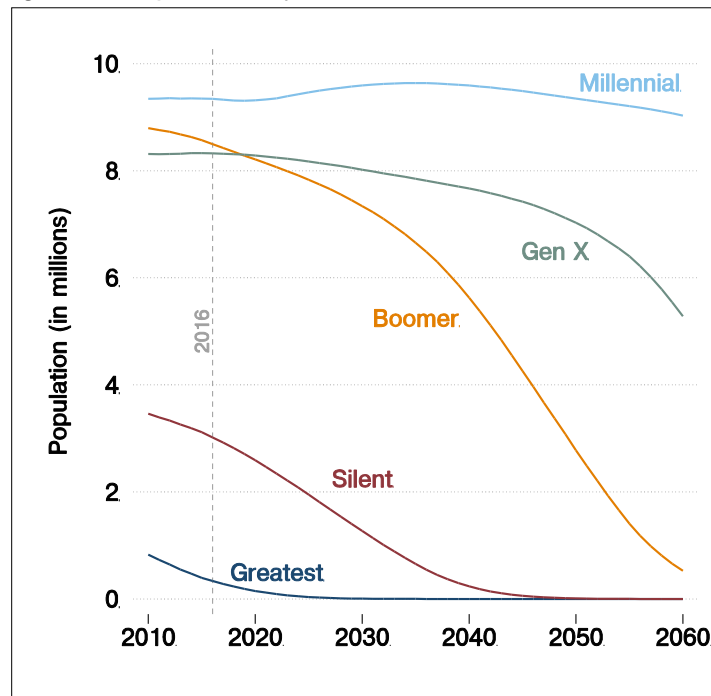
Births through 1997 can be divided into five generations or cohorts (Table 3/Figure 3). The largest cohort in California today is the Millennial (born 1981-1997). The Millennial generation is projected to peak in size at 9.5 million persons during the 2030s, as its ranks continue to grow due to migration. Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964) constitute the second-largest cohort at present, but will rapidly diminish in size due to mortality. In 2019, Generation X (born 1965-1980) is projected to exceed the Baby Boom generation in population size.

Table 3. Population by generation: California, 2016-2060

	2016		2036		2060	
Total population	39,354,432	100%	45,807,050	100%	51,056,510	100%
Born <1928	343,180	1%	181	<1%		
Born 1928-1945	2,973,738	8%	527,399	1%		
Born 1946-1964	8,468,780	22%	6,455,468	14%	510,480	1%
Born 1965-1980	8,274,964	21%	7,891,899	17%	5,210,083	10%
Born 1981-1997	9,460,216	24%	9,431,876	21%	8,918,679	17%

Note: Totals by generation do not sum to total population (births after 1997 not shown).

Figure 3. Population by birth cohort: California, 2010-2060



Regional growth

California's population will go through phases of aging and renewal during the projection period, with varying effects by race, ethnicity, and geography. The patterns are related to the relative size of birth cohorts, decisions on where to move for education, work, family, and retirement, and the size of migration flows to and from California. Some rural counties will see replenishment of population, while others will see rising median ages.

Counties in the greater Los Angeles region will add the most people over the next 45 years. During 2016-2060, Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties are each projected to grow by over 1 million. At present, 45 percent of Californians live in coastal southern counties (Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, or San Diego). However, this share is projected to decrease in the coming years (declining to 42 percent in 2036 and 39 percent by 2060). The Central Valley, San Francisco Bay Area, Inland Empire, and greater Sacramento region are all expected to grow faster than the statewide average, increasing their share of the state population by 1 to 2 percentage points (Table 4).

Table 4. Population by region: California, 2016-2060

	2016		2036		2060	
Total population	39,354,432	100%	45,807,050	100%	51,056,510	100%
[1] San Francisco Bay Area	7,680,709	20%	9,163,287	20%	10,468,398	21%
[2] Sacramento	2,458,135	6%	3,066,335	7%	3,714,415	7%
[3] Far North	1,055,315	3%	1,143,648	2%	1,229,677	2%
[4] Central Valley	4,208,003	11%	5,310,906	12%	6,494,076	13%
[5] Sierra Nevada	187,901	0%	198,799	0%	205,220	0%
[6] Central Coast	1,502,662	4%	1,709,588	4%	1,825,151	4%
[7] South Coast	17,565,890	45%	19,291,680	42%	19,990,023	39%
[8] Inland Empire	4,695,817	12%	5,922,807	13%	7,129,550	14%

Note: Counties by region: [1]: San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo; [2] Sacramento, Sutter, Yuba, Yolo, Placer, El Dorado; [4] San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern; [5] Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Mono, Inyo; [6] Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara; [7] Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego; [8] San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial; [3] all others.

Kern is projected to overtake Fresno County in population size during 2052 (Table 5). During the next 20 years, the highest growth rates (above 1 percent annually) are expected in the Central Valley counties of Yolo, Kern, Madera, Placer, and San Joaquin (Table 6).

Table 5. Largest counties: California, 2016-2060

Rank	10 Largest Counties					
	2016		2036		2060	
1	Los Angeles	10,229,245	Los Angeles	11,070,046	Los Angeles	11,251,434
2	San Diego	3,300,891	San Diego	3,756,811	San Diego	4,136,812
3	Orange	3,181,371	Orange	3,516,426	Orange	3,617,223
4	Riverside	2,360,727	Riverside	3,052,045	Riverside	3,602,352
5	San Bernardino	2,147,933	San Bernardino	2,636,148	San Bernardino	3,237,092
6	Santa Clara	1,930,215	Santa Clara	2,358,693	Santa Clara	2,810,865
7	Alameda	1,637,712	Alameda	1,973,632	Alameda	2,265,671
8	Sacramento	1,506,677	Sacramento	1,871,993	Sacramento	2,262,556
9	Contra Costa	1,129,894	Contra Costa	1,384,877	Contra Costa	1,568,920
10	Fresno	989,183	Fresno	1,212,462	Kern	1,488,228

Table 6. Fastest growing counties: California, 2015-2060

Rank	10 Fastest Growing Counties					
	2015-2016		2016-2036		2016-2060	
1	Yolo	1.9%	Yolo	1.3%	Yolo	1.2%
2	San Joaquin	1.5%	Kern	1.3%	Madera	1.2%
3	Placer	1.4%	Madera	1.3%	Kern	1.2%
4	Riverside	1.3%	Placer	1.3%	Merced	1.2%
5	Stanislaus	1.2%	San Joaquin	1.3%	Placer	1.0%
6	Contra Costa	1.2%	Riverside	1.3%	San Joaquin	1.0%
7	Solano	1.1%	Merced	1.3%	Imperial	1.0%
8	Sacramento	1.1%	Imperial	1.1%	Riverside	1.0%
9	Monterey	1.1%	Sacramento	1.1%	San Bernardino	0.9%
10	Alameda	1.1%	Stanislaus	1.1%	Sacramento	0.9%

These 2016 baseline population projections are used by state and local government agencies to anticipate and plan for future population needs and resource demands, as well as to measure incidence rates and program effectiveness. The Department of Finance uses a cohort-component method to project population by age, gender, and race/ethnicity. A cohort-component method traces people born in a given year through their lives: with each passing year, new cohorts are formed by applying fertility assumptions, and the population at each age grows or shrinks due to aging, mortality, and migration assumptions.

The baseline assumptions of the projections are the continuation of changing demographic dynamics within the norm of historical experience. The projections assume that the trends described in the projections will continue irrespective of recent or anticipated legislation or policy changes. The projections are developed in consultation with local and regional authorities, who may make different assumptions in their analysis that are partly reflected in the final migration, fertility, and mortality forecasts when their input is taken into consideration.

County tables and maps are appended. Additional datasets and methodological notes are available from the Department of Finance website:

<http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Projections/>

¹ Crude birth rate: number of births per 1,000 population.

² Crude death rate: number of deaths per 1,000 population.

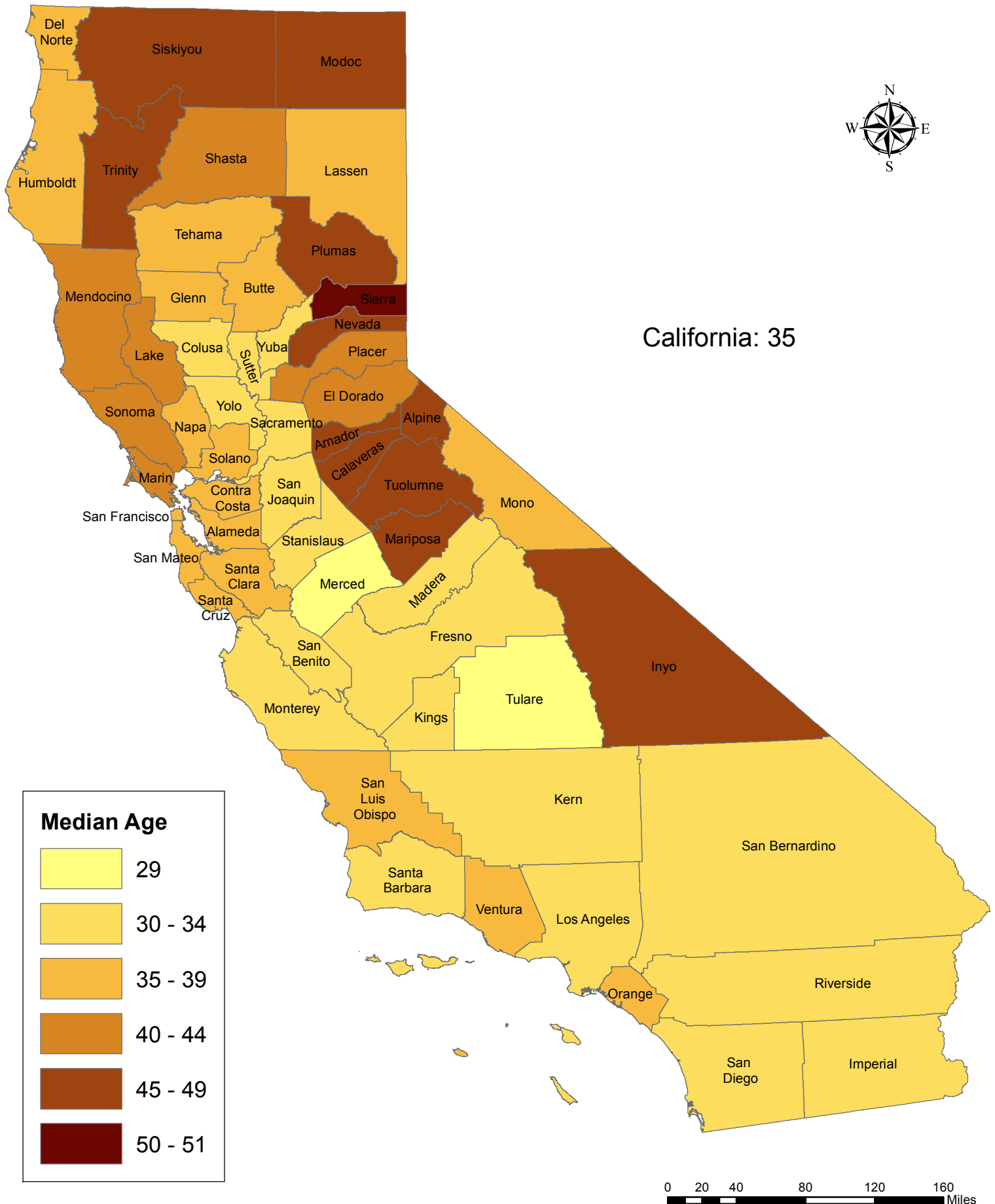
³ Total fertility rate: a synthetic measure of fertility representing the hypothetical number of children born to a woman during her lifetime, if she experienced the age-specific rates for the period in question throughout her reproductive life.

Total Estimated and Projected Population for California and Counties: July 1, 2010 to July 1, 2060 in 5-year Increments

	Estimates		Projections							
	2010	2015	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050	2055	2060
California	37,333,583	39,059,809	42,407,005	44,019,846	45,521,334	46,884,801	48,088,425	49,158,401	50,124,768	51,056,510
Alameda County	1,515,338	1,619,679	1,795,390	1,878,556	1,958,389	2,032,262	2,099,569	2,159,782	2,213,971	2,265,671
Alpine County	1,175	1,157	1,134	1,150	1,169	1,164	1,141	1,105	1,078	1,057
Amador County	38,069	37,314	38,977	40,134	41,083	41,719	42,197	42,711	43,391	44,245
Butte County	220,157	224,363	238,546	247,339	256,042	263,642	270,612	277,512	285,290	292,892
Calaveras County	45,535	44,899	46,143	47,129	47,851	48,242	48,465	48,775	49,397	50,468
Colusa County	21,465	22,271	24,085	24,980	25,765	26,451	26,989	27,482	28,013	28,626
Contra Costa County	1,051,525	1,116,882	1,250,935	1,314,573	1,373,950	1,426,050	1,469,258	1,505,996	1,537,429	1,568,920
Del Norte County	28,387	27,119	27,467	27,775	28,062	28,309	28,553	28,773	29,082	29,550
El Dorado County	180,975	183,140	196,057	204,977	214,008	221,939	228,335	234,290	241,185	249,924
Fresno County	932,628	979,357	1,088,963	1,145,646	1,201,416	1,256,572	1,309,006	1,358,963	1,407,602	1,457,705
Glenn County	28,182	28,960	30,605	31,594	32,502	33,261	33,856	34,357	34,841	35,389
Humboldt County	134,929	135,090	140,298	141,501	142,085	141,958	141,625	141,193	140,651	140,489
Imperial County	175,107	185,328	208,364	220,459	232,298	243,975	255,677	267,419	278,720	290,106
Inyo County	18,539	18,640	19,048	19,219	19,339	19,360	19,307	19,176	18,993	18,864
Kern County	841,887	883,327	995,408	1,067,631	1,141,109	1,213,558	1,283,154	1,350,705	1,419,039	1,488,228
Kings County	152,175	149,702	162,049	170,105	178,505	187,048	195,106	202,760	209,804	217,058
Lake County	64,905	65,180	66,476	67,718	69,030	70,275	71,574	73,015	74,769	76,877
Lassen County	34,869	30,969	30,478	30,157	29,668	29,117	28,521	27,941	27,408	26,999
Los Angeles County	9,837,011	10,185,487	10,688,523	10,885,337	11,042,709	11,161,569	11,238,210	11,274,596	11,275,452	11,251,434
Madera County	150,193	154,956	174,156	186,761	199,556	212,229	224,744	237,116	249,271	262,065
Marin County	252,185	262,105	270,747	274,243	277,316	278,955	278,811	277,335	275,223	273,469
Mariposa County	18,245	18,088	18,243	18,481	18,698	18,823	18,967	19,112	19,323	19,655
Mendocino County	87,661	88,429	92,145	93,657	94,782	95,329	95,500	95,608	95,847	96,369
Merced County	256,803	269,729	305,794	326,574	348,150	369,193	389,832	410,095	430,832	452,519
Modoc County	9,689	9,507	9,228	9,177	9,105	8,971	8,808	8,656	8,543	8,497
Mono County	14,017	13,818	14,389	14,692	14,928	15,020	14,974	14,778	14,473	14,179
Monterey County	414,915	436,242	475,105	491,601	507,123	521,041	532,661	541,508	548,649	554,839
Napa County	136,237	141,546	149,471	154,107	158,238	161,795	164,541	166,634	168,466	170,408
Nevada County	98,517	98,190	102,549	105,732	108,910	111,421	113,423	115,821	119,222	123,679
Orange County	3,014,962	3,161,218	3,351,315	3,434,157	3,504,411	3,558,718	3,595,775	3,616,582	3,621,879	3,617,223
Placer County	350,052	370,738	424,858	454,102	482,171	507,740	530,743	551,660	572,485	594,279
Plumas County	19,982	19,586	19,194	19,022	18,760	18,366	17,947	17,605	17,473	17,538
Riverside County	2,196,137	2,329,256	2,692,006	2,863,260	3,021,572	3,165,363	3,292,187	3,406,136	3,507,769	3,602,352
Sacramento County	1,421,628	1,489,952	1,669,830	1,762,759	1,854,128	1,942,004	2,025,927	2,105,299	2,183,173	2,262,556
San Benito County	55,401	57,584	63,368	66,796	70,220	73,535	76,499	79,210	81,812	84,473
San Bernardino County	2,044,228	2,129,851	2,357,002	2,483,568	2,610,720	2,735,646	2,857,883	2,981,484	3,105,723	3,237,092
San Diego County	3,100,529	3,275,084	3,529,054	3,638,609	3,737,507	3,830,210	3,916,308	3,997,108	4,069,577	4,136,812
San Francisco County	809,174	863,108	945,660	981,738	1,015,352	1,047,902	1,081,493	1,117,661	1,156,570	1,196,108
San Joaquin County	687,827	727,547	839,665	895,240	947,929	996,379	1,040,015	1,079,902	1,116,089	1,150,034
San Luis Obispo County	269,013	276,844	295,019	302,323	307,467	310,367	310,573	309,424	308,155	307,681
San Mateo County	720,496	764,379	822,392	846,852	867,540	886,272	902,065	915,205	927,366	938,228
Santa Barbara County	423,552	444,900	477,699	492,495	505,338	516,163	524,590	531,252	536,043	540,508
Santa Clara County	1,790,301	1,915,102	2,124,780	2,230,564	2,337,470	2,443,718	2,545,513	2,640,473	2,726,922	2,810,865
Santa Cruz County	262,341	274,697	294,233	303,377	311,059	317,542	322,998	327,682	332,459	337,650
Shasta County	177,062	178,777	184,384	188,847	193,030	196,656	199,830	202,817	206,244	210,014
Sierra County	3,233	3,147	3,126	3,092	3,042	2,985	2,931	2,899	2,890	2,910
Siskiyou County	44,862	44,500	44,352	44,492	44,522	44,339	44,095	44,024	44,290	44,954
Solano County	412,573	429,267	482,723	509,230	534,008	556,679	576,963	595,865	614,246	633,039
Sonoma County	483,844	501,182	538,701	558,134	574,747	586,957	595,413	601,189	606,178	611,690
Stanislaus County	515,888	538,372	605,618	638,995	670,443	699,177	724,772	747,343	768,026	787,300
Sutter County	94,859	97,618	106,589	111,423	116,316	120,845	125,529	129,929	134,607	139,449
Tehama County	63,505	63,970	66,956	69,004	71,036	72,859	74,607	76,483	78,493	80,751
Trinity County	13,779	13,562	13,324	13,314	13,271	13,224	13,200	13,311	13,623	14,143
Tulare County	442,551	463,291	514,101	541,140	568,186	594,348	617,916	639,477	659,482	679,167
Tuolumne County	55,350	54,525	54,470	54,958	55,369	55,557	55,588	55,691	56,063	56,752
Ventura County	824,467	852,013	896,731	922,001	944,298	961,828	973,476	979,739	982,270	984,554
Yolo County	202,352	212,686	245,902	262,418	279,236	296,657	313,962	331,183	348,267	365,773
Yuba County	72,315	75,579	83,180	86,931	90,400	93,517	96,211	98,554	100,630	102,434

Projections Prepared by Demographic Research Unit, California Department of Finance, February 2017

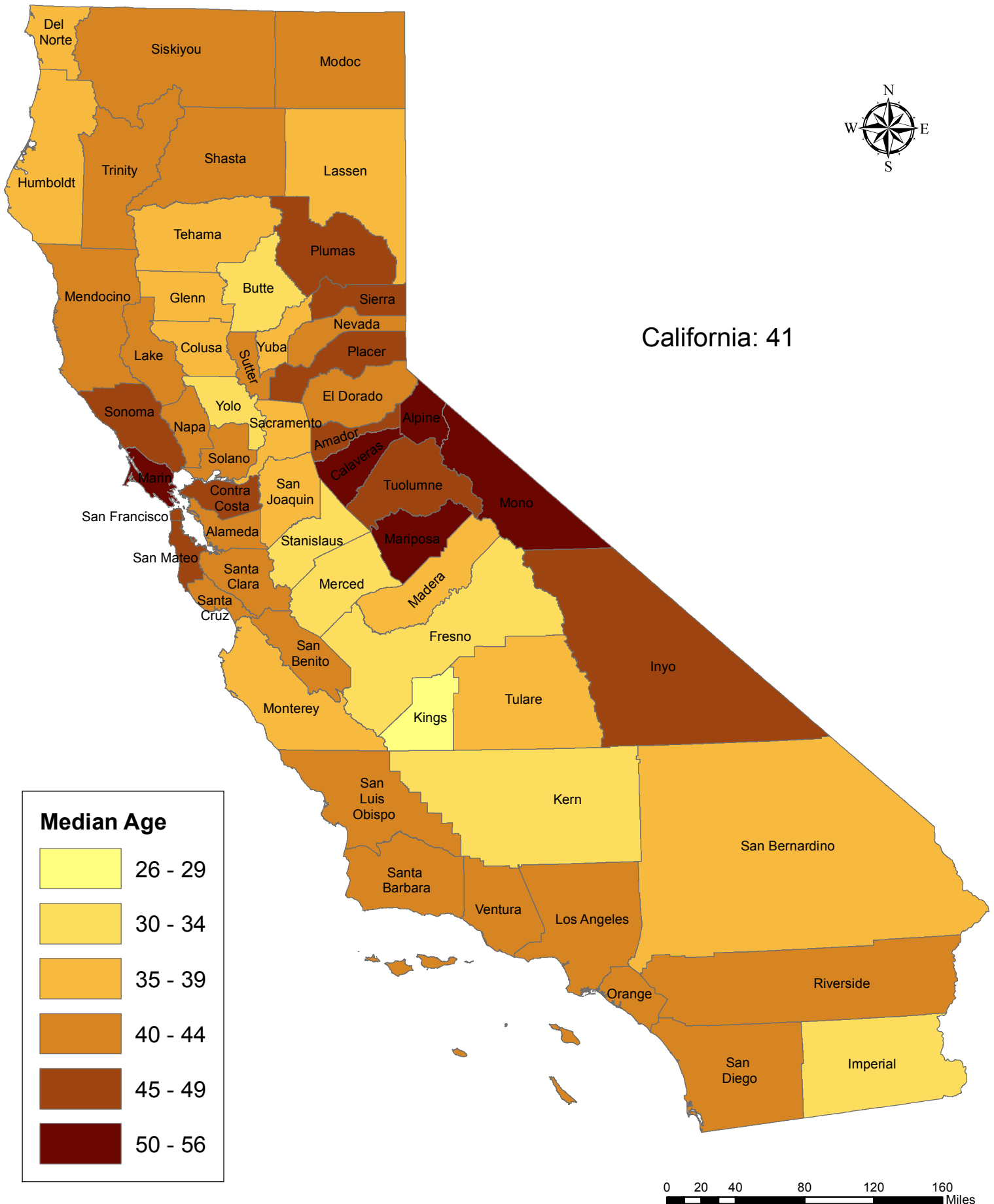
California 2010 Median Age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

Map prepared by: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, February 2017.

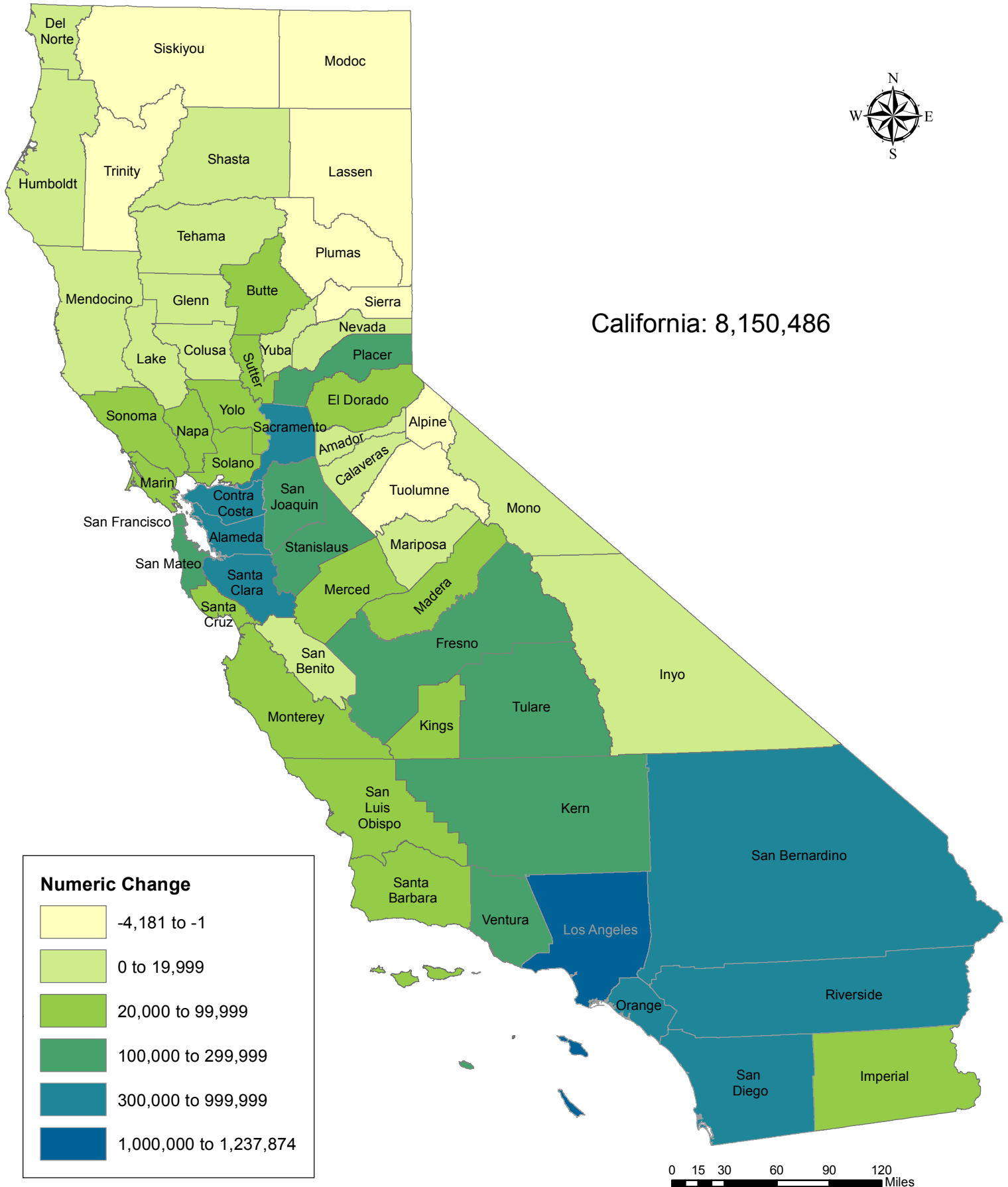
California Projected 2035 Median Age



Source: California Department of Finance, Population Projections for California and its Counties, 2016 Baseline Series.
Map prepared by: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, February 2017.

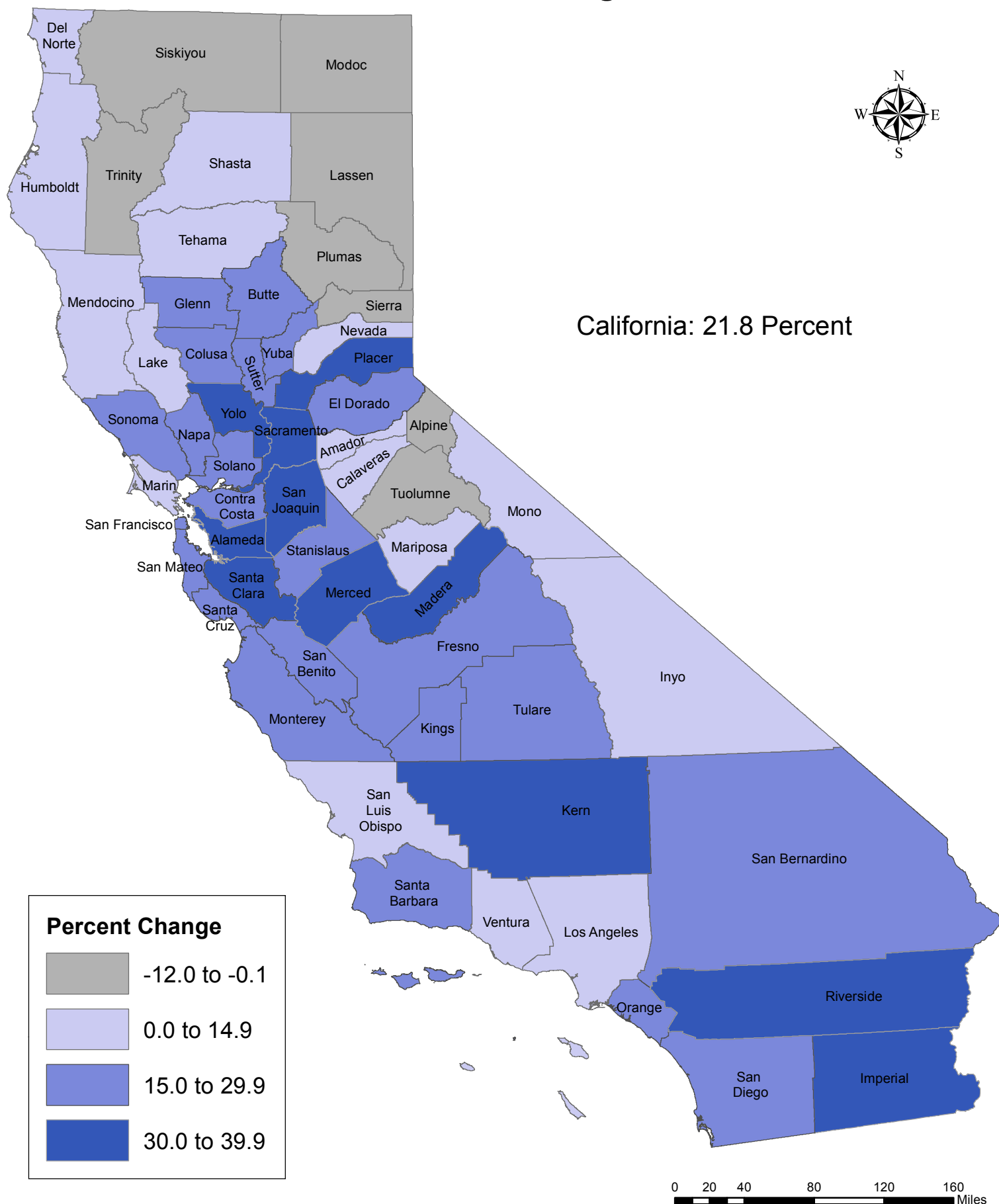
California Projected Population Growth 2010 to 2035

Numeric Change



California Projected Population Growth 2010 to 2035

Percent Change



Source: California Department of Finance, Population Projections for California and its Counties, 2016 Baseline Series.
 Map prepared by: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, February 2017.