

System
Indicators

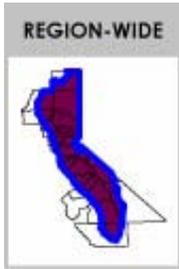
Demographics and Economy



Employment by Economic Sector (2009)

September 2011

Employment by Economic Sector



Measuring employment by industry illustrates the composition of the Region's economy. Employment shifts across industry sectors can be indicative of structural changes to the economy. The economy constantly evolves over time, with new industries growing and some old ones withering away. Understanding the employment levels and growth, or decline, of industry sectors helps communities plan for their educational, infrastructure, and policy needs.

Health, Retail Trade, and Education represent the largest sectors of both the Region's and the state's economies. Health accounted for 14.5 percent of total jobs in the SNC Region in 2009, compared to 12.4 percent of California's jobs.

Health was also the fastest growing sector in the Sierra since 2000, overtaking Retail Trade as the top employer. California followed a similar trend with Health overtaking the Manufacturing and Retail Trade sectors, which had been the biggest employers in 2000. Other economic sectors that have experienced some growth in the Sierra include: education, professional & technology, finance, and arts & entertainment. All of these sectors displayed similar growth patterns to the whole of the state.

Manufacturing has exhibited the steepest decline in the Sierra Nevada, with employment falling from 7.7 percent to 5.2 percent of total jobs between 2000 and 2009. This is not just a regional phenomenon, however. Manufacturing declined as an employer of California's workforce at essentially the same rate (but representing a larger proportion of workers), dropping from 13 percent to 9 percent of the workforce during the same period. In 2000, manufacturing was by far the largest employment sector in the state – now it is fourth (and ninth in the Sierra).

Other sectors with significant declines in employment in the Sierra include public administration and transport/warehousing. These declines are not in line with state trends; public administration employment actually increased for the state. Construction in both the Sierra and California grew as a provider of jobs between 2000 and 2007 and then immediately saw a drop between 2007 and 2009 due to the recession.

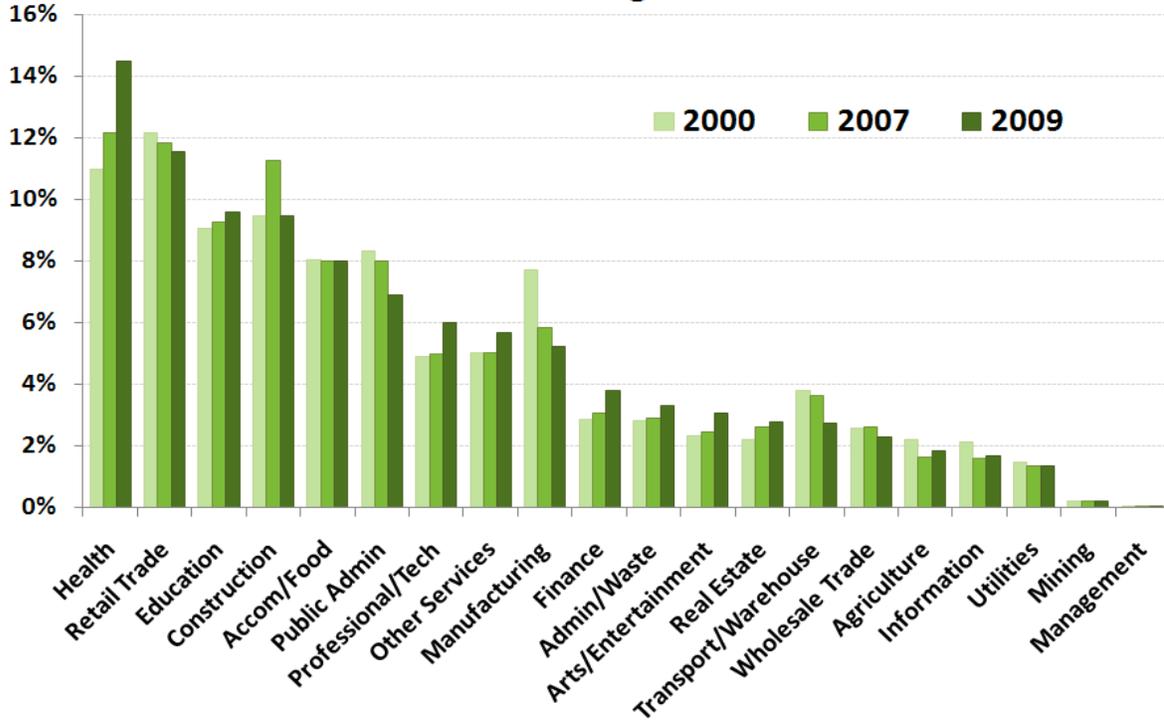
The Green Economy

The green economy is not an employment sector as described above, but rather individual jobs within any industry that support a greener economy. As defined by the California Employment Development Department (EDD), the green economy consists of jobs whose activities:

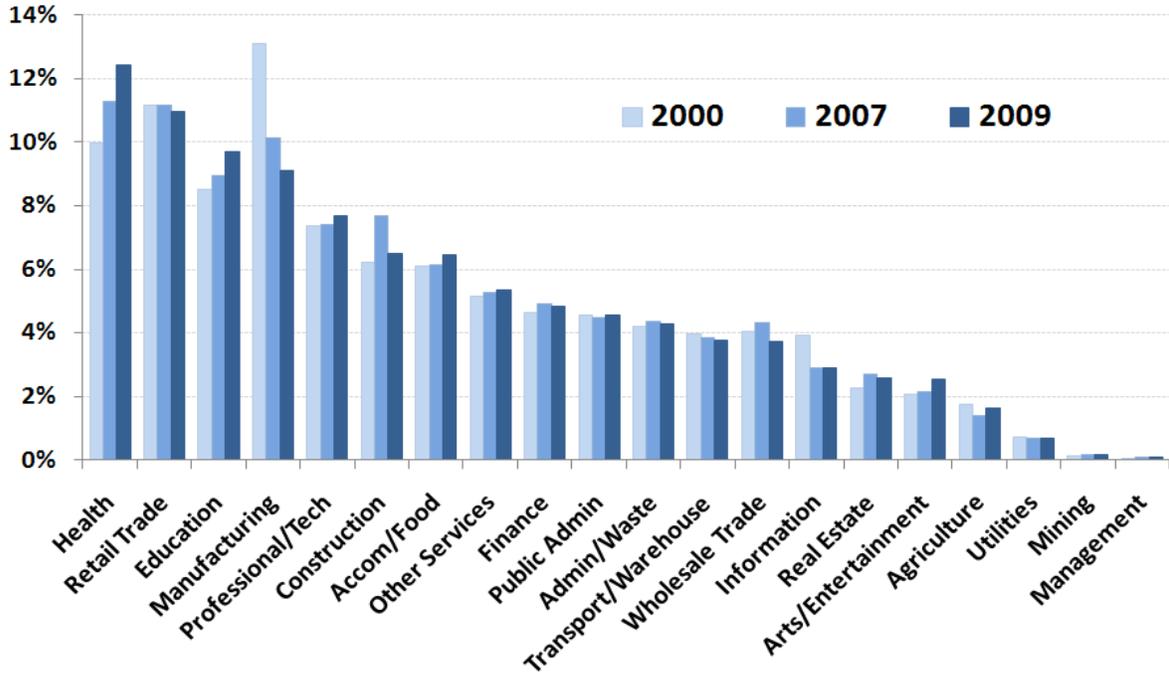
1. Generate and store renewable energy
2. Recycle existing materials
3. Manufacture, distribute, construct, install, or maintain energy efficient products
4. Foster education, awareness, or compliance of the green economy
5. Manufacture natural and sustainable products

Employment by Industry Percent of Total Employment by Sector

SNC Region



California



Geographic Definition: Census Block
 Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing. ESRI Forecasts for 2007 and 2009.

The 2010 EDD *California's Green Economy* survey reported 432,840 green jobs out of 12.6 million total jobs reported in the survey, indicating that green jobs comprise 3.4 percent of the state's employment. The survey breaks down these jobs into nine regions; unfortunately, the configuration of these regions fits very poorly with the configuration of the SNC Region, making it impossible to provide an accurate estimate of green jobs in the Sierra Nevada using this information.

The only EDD region that is entirely within the SNC Region is their Central Sierra region consisting of Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, and Tuolumne Counties. These seven counties reported 1,990 green jobs, which accounted for 4.8 percent of total reported jobs in those counties, a higher ratio than the state average.

The Northern California region includes Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, and Sierra Counties, but also other northern and north-west counties. This northern region reported 10,360 green jobs accounting for 8.1 percent of total jobs. This ratio is much higher than the state average and is by far the 'greenest' economy in California. However, only about 30 percent of the population of these northern counties resides in the SNC Region, so it impossible to say if this 8.1 percent figure is indicative of the North and North-Central SNC Subregions (and Nevada County in the Central Subregion). But it would be reasonable to surmise that there is enough similarity among these counties that green employment in the northern Sierra is considerably higher than the state average of 3.4 percent.

Placer and El Dorado Counties, with their larger populations, is a more difficult case to assess. They are included in the Greater Sacramento region in the EDD analysis. This region reported only 2.9 percent green employment, lower than the state average.

It is unclear if the portions of these counties inside the SNC Region have a green employment rate higher than 2.9 percent. Although one cannot say for sure, based on the figures described above, it seems likely that the SNC Region has higher 'green employment' than the state average.

The EDD report also categorizes green jobs by industry sector, but only for the state as a whole, not by county or region. The employment sectors with the most green jobs are manufacturing (accounting for 20.5 percent of all green jobs in California), construction (14.2 percent), professional & technical services (9.7 percent), wholesale trade (7.6 percent), and agriculture and forestry (7.3 percent). The Utilities sector (accounting for 4.1 percent of all green jobs) has the highest proportion of green jobs of any sector – 28 percent of Utilities jobs are green.

Employment in manufacturing and professional services is lower in the SNC Region than for the state, indicating two large sectors where the Sierra lacks green job opportunities. On the other hand, statewide, 8.8 percent of agriculture and forestry jobs were reported as 'green'. It is possible that some of the forestry work taking place in the Sierra around fuels treatments and biomass is not being picked up by the EDD. As needed work in this area expands, the role of the Sierra Nevada in California's 'green economy' needs to be tracked and documented.