



El Dorado County

Economic & Demographic Profile

2008



El Dorado County 2008-09

Economic and Demographic Profile



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Introduction

Welcome to the *2008-09 Economic & Demographic Profile* for El Dorado County. This document contains important information concerning the well-being of El Dorado County's residents, community, and economy. The data here has been compiled to represent trends over the last decade, and in many cases provides projections for the coming 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 growth and strength of the area.



This profile was compiled by the Center for Economic Development (CED), California State University, Chico Research Foundation. The CED is a community outreach organization of the University Research Foundation at CSU, Chico. The CED receives funding from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce along with matching funds provided by the University.

The CED has provided Northern California county profiles 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 2008-09 series to include more information, new narratives, and improvements in data display. The CED is pleased to have the opportunity to produce the *2008-09 Economic & Demographic Profile* for El Dorado County. The CED continues to welcome any comments and suggestions. The CED has access to market professionals both in-house and within the local community, and gladly facilitates additional needs to our fullest capacity upon request.

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.

Cameron Park

Cameron Park is a fairly new community in El Dorado County, and offers itself as a glimpse into the area's past. Burial mounds and grinding stones of the Niesnan branch of the Maidu Indians and the Skinner Winery from 1865 are a few of the historical interests in the area. The site of Cameron Park rests in the same county where gold was discovered in 1848, prior to the California Gold Rush. Originally purchased by Larry Cameron in the 1950s, the 5,000 foothill acres were meant to be ranch land. Cameron divided the land, and it now has many different qualities to offer the community, including residential and shopping areas, ranch-sized properties, a championship country club, a recreational lake, and the Airpark Estates. Airpark Estates is a neighborhood located right by the airport, with a "runway" home. One of the advantages to living and flying in the Cameron Airpark Estates is the drive home. The wide streets throughout the community allow the pilots to taxi all the way to their driveway.

For more information on Cameron Park, you can visit or contact the Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.sscpchamber.org/>

Postal Address: P. O. Box 341

Physical Address: 3300 Coach Lane, Suite B7
Cameron Park, CA 95682

Phone: (530) 677-8000

Fax: (530) 676-8313

Georgetown

Georgetown is another point of historical interest in El Dorado County. Named after George Phipps, who led a company of sailors there during the nineteenth century, Georgetown was the site of a gold camp and trading center for around 10,000 miners during the gold rush. It also was the site for an attempt of Japanese settlers to form the Wakamatsu Colony, established in 1868 to operate a tea and silk plantation. The venture failed after two years.

Today, Georgetown remains "The Pride of the Mountains" for the residents, with the beautiful surrounding Sierra Nevadas and the historical Main Street. It also is part of the Sacramento, California metropolitan area.

For more information on Georgetown, informational phone numbers and web sites are listed below.

Georgetown Airport: (916) 622-0459

Georgetown Web site: <http://www.caohwy.com/g/georgeto.htm>

Georgetown Lodging: <http://www.usa-lodging.com/motels/califn/Georgetown.htm>

Shingle Springs

As most of El Dorado County, Shingle Springs played an important role in California history, and specifically in the days of the California Gold Rush. Though today it is a peaceful and quiet country community with large estates and ranches, at one time, Shingle Springs was littered with rich placer mines (and miners) yielding up to \$200 per rocker per day. The discovery of gold brought people to the area, but the population declined as mines began to fail. However, some cattle ranchers and farmers knew the value of the land despite the lack of minerals, and continued to support the town. The first post office was established on February 3, 1853, the first general store was built in 1865, and the Sacramento Valley Railroad was extended into Shingle Springs in 1866. With transportation coming and going on a daily basis, business increased and Shingle Springs became a booming area.

One year later, the railroad was rerouted through Auburn, taking with it Shingle Springs residents. However, the majority of the population remained in Shingle Springs to establish a permanent community. On May 11, 1865 Shingle Springs became Shingle, and remained that way until 1955 when it returned to its original name, Shingle Springs.

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El Dorado Hills

El Dorado Hills has always been a beautiful part of the county. The views of the surrounding areas are breathtaking, and the community is warm and welcoming to all visitors.

The community has many recreational activities available to everyone. Some of these activities include El Dorado Hills Golf Course, playgrounds, and sports fields, not to mention biking country roads, hiking, and water sports at Folsom Lake and the Marina at Brown's Ravine. Folsom Lake is one of the most popular recreational areas in California, with seventy-seven miles of shoreline to play on.

Referred to as the gateway to El Dorado County, El Dorado Hills has varying elevations, ranging from 200 feet to over 10,800 feet, with the towering Sierras offering ski areas close by. It is also home to many famous wineries, breweries, bake shops, and farms.

Chamber of Commerce:

Email: chamber@eldoradohillschamber.org

<http://www.eldoradohillschamber.com/>

<http://www.visit-eldorado.com>

Postal Address: P.O. Box 5055

Physical Address: 981 Governor Dr., Ste. 103

El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Phone: (916) 933-1335

Golf Course: (916) 933-6552

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: (530) 544-5050

<http://www.virtualtahoe.com/LTVA>

Diamond Springs

Diamond Springs got its name from a clear water spring that was located where Main Street is now. Originally founded in 1848, it was among the richest spots in this vicinity, with diggings producing a twenty-five-pound nugget, one of the largest ever found in El Dorado County. Its most thriving period was in 1851 and, through its lumber, lime production, and agriculture, Diamond Springs has retained some of its early importance.

Today, it remains a viable area, placed in the middle of a variety of recreational possibilities. The landscape is beautiful and the area offers many opportunities for recreational fun.

For more information on Diamond Springs, visit:

http://ceres.ca.gov/geo_area/counties/El_Dorado/landmarks.html.

Pollock Pines

Pollock Pines is yet another beautiful area of El Dorado County. With lush forests and majestic mountains, this is a great source of recreation for everyone. Located between Lake Tahoe, Sacramento, and the Sierra Nevada Mountains, camping, hiking, fishing, and snow sports are just a few of the options visitors have. The area also experiences all four seasons, so visitors, plan ahead and catch the weather you're looking for.

Though most of El Dorado County was home to miners during the Gold Rush, Pollock Pines was only a resting place for Pony Express riders to catch some sleep, as it was along the Wagon Train and Mormon Emigrant Trail. Annual reenactments of the history of the Gold Rush remind the community of the importance of the area.

For more information on Pollock Pines, contact the

El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce:

<http://co.el-dorado.ca.us/>

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