



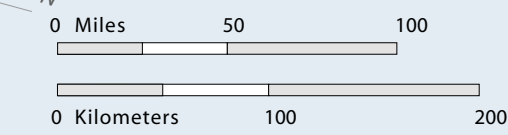
### California Counties

The first California Legislature in 1849-1850 divided the state into 27 counties. During this Gold Rush period most of the **population** lived between San Francisco and mining towns in the Sierra Nevada. Many original counties were small because the mountain terrain (in the Sierra) or large water bodies (San Francisco Bay) made travel and communication difficult. Additional disagreements between mining towns and **agricultural** districts led to further subdividing, so that the number of counties quickly increased. In 1907 Imperial County became the 58th and final county. San Bernardino County is the largest (20,164 square miles), and San Francisco County is the smallest (91 square miles).

#### Population by County, 2008

Alameda	1,474,368	Placer	341,945
Alpine	1,061	Plumas	20,275
Amador	38,238	Riverside	2,100,516
Butte	220,337	Sacramento	1,394,154
Calaveras	46,843	San Benito	54,699
Colusa	21,204	San Bernardino	2,015,355
Contra Costa	1,029,703	San Diego	3,001,072
Del Norte	29,100	San Francisco	808,976
El Dorado	176,075	San Joaquin	672,388
Fresno	909,153	San Luis Obispo	265,297
Glenn	28,237	San Mateo	712,690
Humboldt	129,000	Santa Barbara	405,396
Imperial	163,972	Santa Clara	1,764,499
Inyo	17,136	Santa Cruz	253,137
Kern	800,458	Shasta	180,214
Kings	149,518	Sierra	3,263
Lake	64,866	Siskiyou	44,542
Lassen	34,574	Solano	407,515
Los Angeles	9,862,049	Sonoma	466,741
Madera	148,333	Stanislaus	510,694
Marin	248,794	Sutter	92,207
Mariposa	17,976	Tehama	61,550
Mendocino	86,221	Trinity	14,317
Merced	246,117	Tulare	426,276
Modoc	9,184	Tuolumne	55,644
Mono	12,774	Ventura	797,740
Monterey	408,238	Yolo	197,658
Napa	133,433	Yuba	73,067
Nevada	97,118		
Orange	3,010,759	State Population	36,756,666

SOURCE: POPULATION DIVISION ESTIMATES, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU



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