# Del Norte County Economic Forecast

Forecast Summary

- Approximately 100 jobs are expected to be created in Del Norte County in 2019. Through 2024, employment growth is expected to be relatively flat, with the county neither gaining nor losing a substantial number of jobs.

- The largest gains are expected in healthcare and government. Together, these sectors will account for virtually all net job creation in the county between 2018 and 2024.

- Employment contractions are expected in construction, agriculture, information, and financial activities.

- The unemployment rate averaged 5.5 percent in 2018 and is near its lowest sustainable level. The unemployment rate may begin to rise during the 2018–2024 forecast period.

- The Del Norte County population is growing at a faster rate than the average for Northern California, but the countywide population will begin to decline during the forecast period.

- Housing production remains very low in Del Norte County and is not expected to increase meaningfully from current levels.

Job Growth

- Government is the largest employment sector in Del Norte County, accounting for 45 percent of all wage-and-salary jobs.

- Aside from government, the largest industries are retail, leisure and hospitality, and education and healthcare.
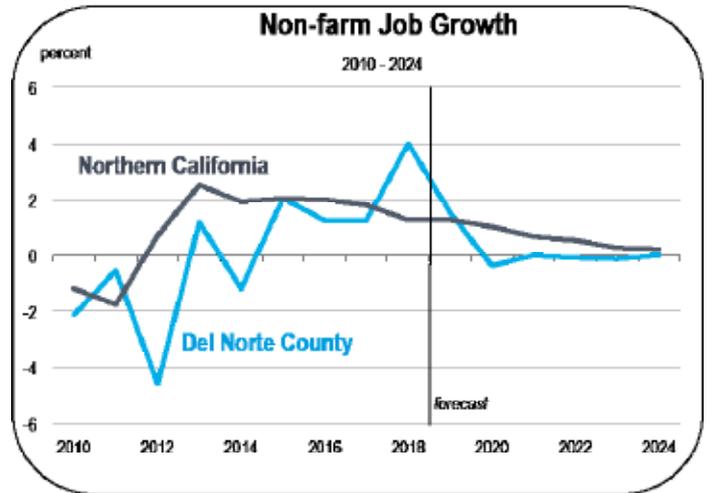

- After 2019, no meaningful job creation is expected in Del Norte County.

Government Employment

- Government agencies in Del Norte County gained a substantial number of jobs in 2018, and government agencies now employ more than 3,900 workers.

- Public schools and local municipal agencies accounted for virtually all of the job gains in 2018.

- The Del Norte County health department is among the largest agencies in the county, employing between 100 and 250 workers.
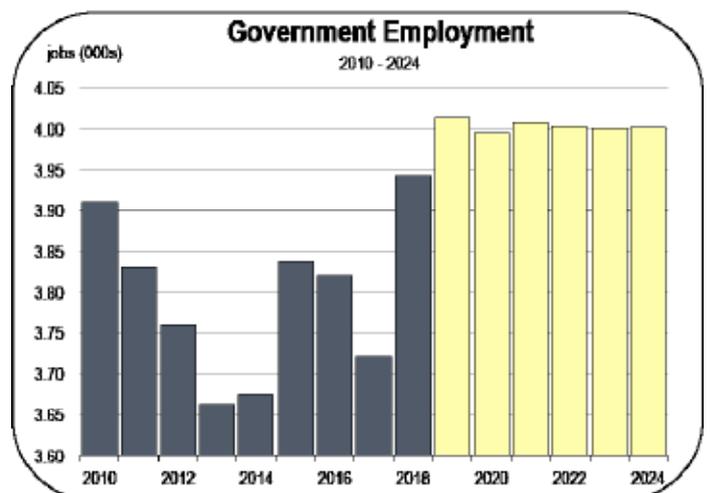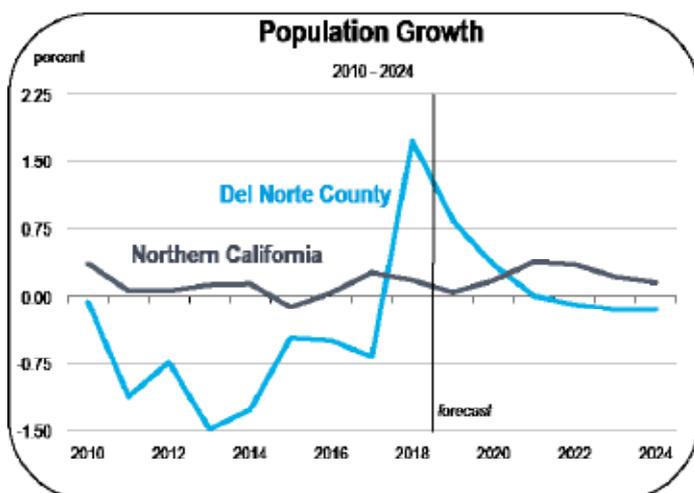
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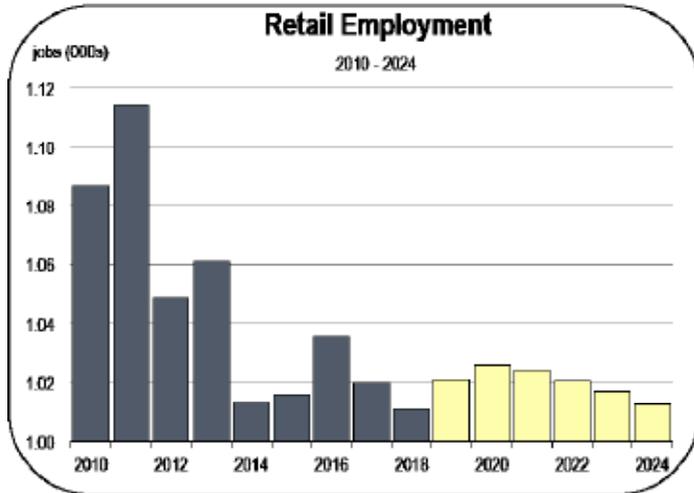
- The sheriff's department employs between 50 and 100 workers, and several schools employ at least 50 workers.

- The Yurok Tribe, an American Indian tribe located in Del Norte County, employs between 250 and 500 individuals who work for the tribe's government.

- Across Del Norte County government agencies and public schools, future employment gains will be determined by population growth and by the condition of state and local government budgets.

Retail Trade Employment

- Retail trade employment has fallen sharply since 2011 and is at its lowest level since at least 1990.
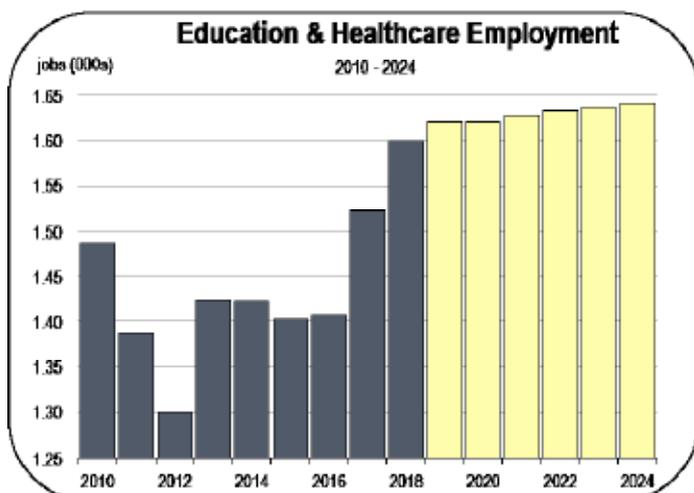
- Retail trade jobs have disappeared because local stores are facing increased competition from online retailers, and because the county's population is declining.

- The largest stores still operating in the county include:
  - The Walmart in Crescent City (100-250 workers)
  - The Home Depot in Crescent City (50-100 workers)
  - The Safeway in Crescent City (50-100 workers)

- During the forecast period, retail employment in Del Norte County is not expected to increase meaningfully because online competition will further erode brick-and-mortar jobs, and because the county population will continue to shrink.

Private Education and Healthcare Employment

- Healthcare agencies have generated 200 jobs over the last two years.

- The Del Norte County healthcare industry is dominated by Sutter Coast Hospital, which employs between 250 and 500 workers.

- The private education industry is very small, and neither gains nor loses a substantial number of jobs in a typical year.

- The number of healthcare jobs is expected to grow marginally during the 2018–2024 forecast period.

Leisure and Hospitality Employment

- The leisure and hospitality industry expanded by almost 200 jobs over the last eight years.
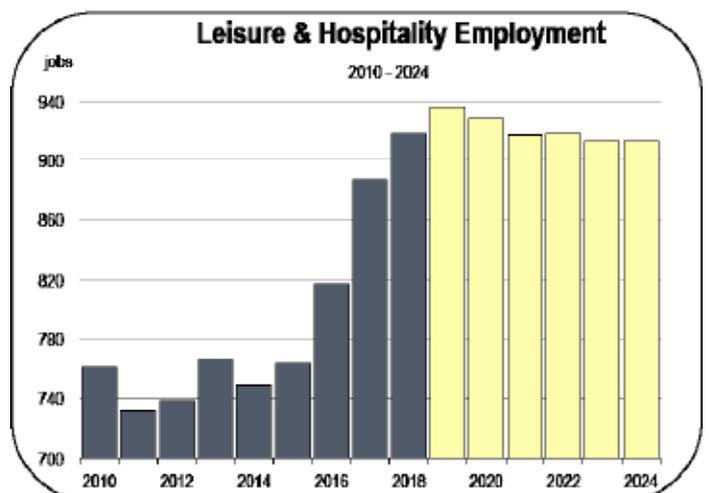
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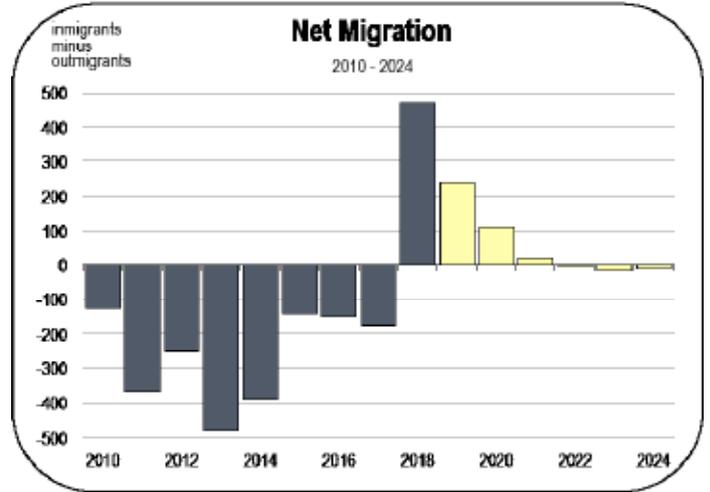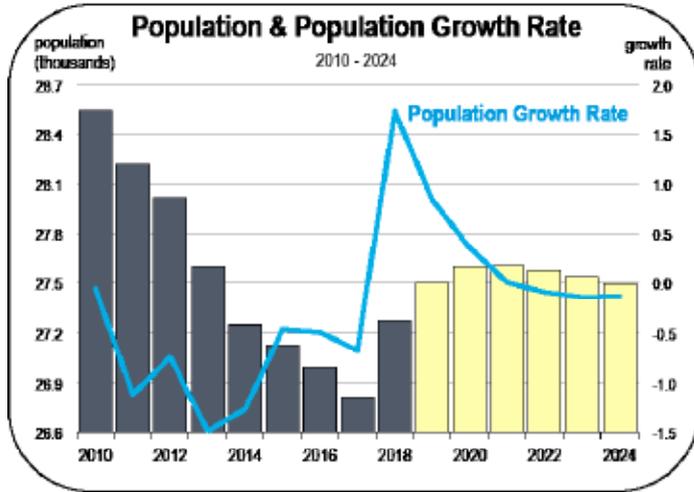
- The Del Norte County leisure sector is primarily concentrated in casinos, hotels, and restaurants.

- Hotels and casinos employ approximately 400 workers, while restaurants employ about 550 workers.

- The largest casinos are:
  - Elk Valley Casino (100-250 workers)
  - Lucky 7 Casino & Hotel (100-250 workers)
 - Redwood Hotel Casino (100-250 workers)
  - Tolowa Dee-Ni Nation Casino (100-250 workers)

- The leisure and hospitality sector is not expected to create a substantial number of jobs during the forecast period. This sector is a population-serving industry, and the Del Norte County population is expected to decline.
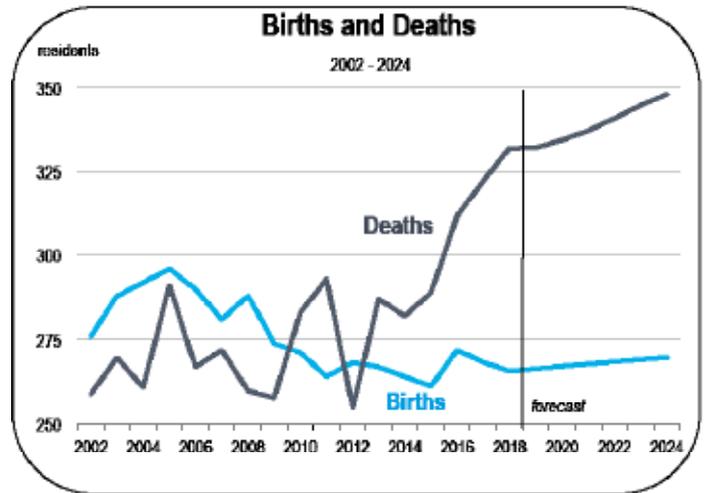
Population Growth

- The Del Norte County population increased sharply in 2018 after declining for almost a decade.

- Negative net migration (more residents moving out of the county than moving in) has been the primary contributor to population decline over the last decade, but in 2018 net migration turned positive.

- Deaths have also begun to outnumber births because Del Norte County has a large number of residents in the older age brackets.

- Over the forecast period, deaths will begin to outnumber births by a wider margin, creating a larger drag on population growth.
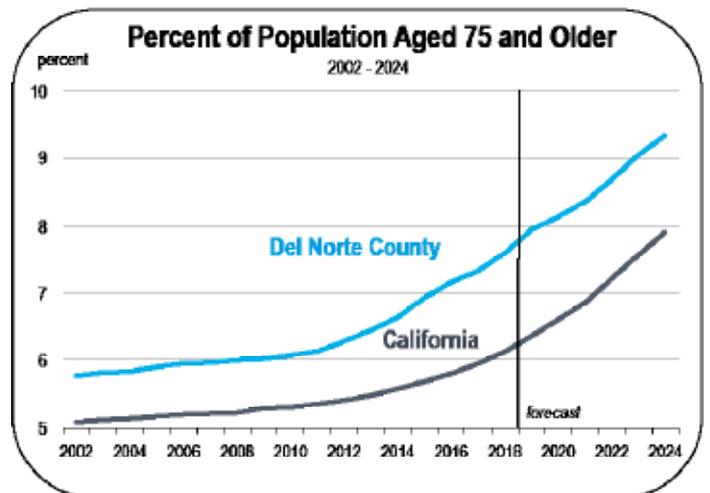
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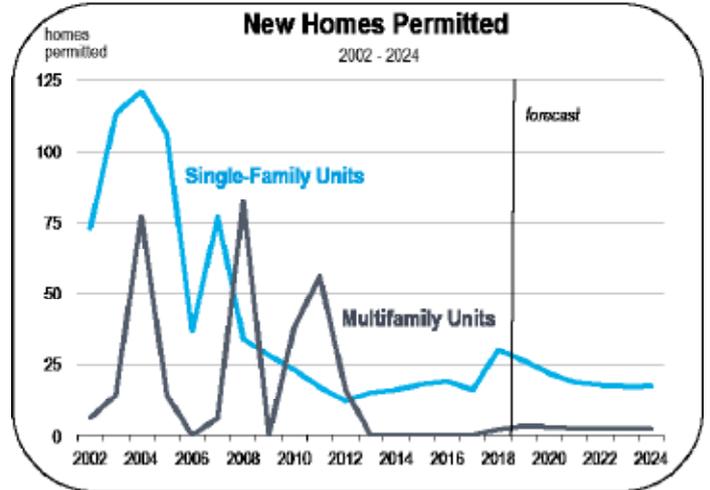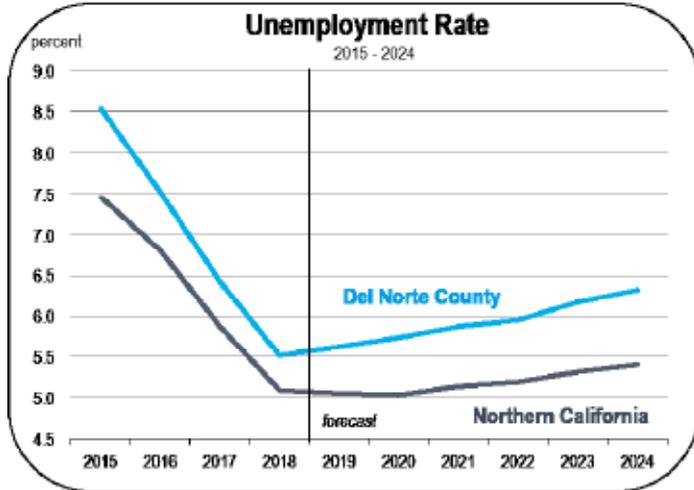
- The population may continue to increase in 2019 and 2020, but is expected to decline in the later years of the forecast period.

Unemployment and Inflation Rates

- The unemployment rate in Del Norte County was 5.5 percent in 2018, which is higher than the average for Northern California.

- The unemployment rate has reached its lowest sustainable levels and is expected to increase during the 2018–2024 forecast period.

- Inflation accelerated in 2018 as home prices and energy costs increased across California.

- In 2019 and 2020, inflation is expected to be within a range of 2.0 percent and 3.5 percent.
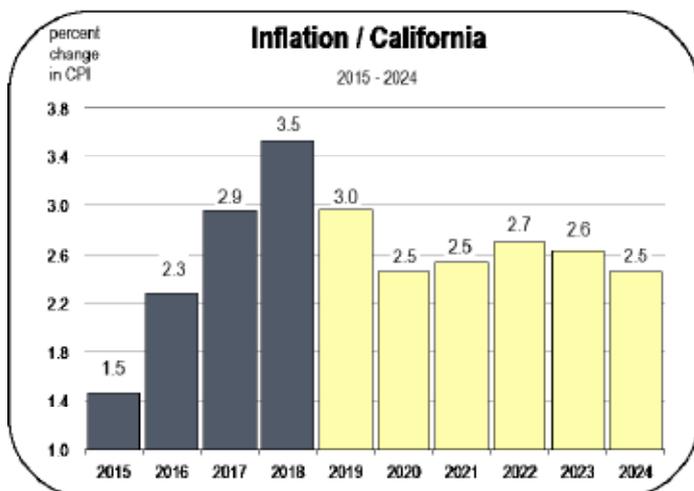
New Housing Production

- From 2013 to 2018, an average of 19 new units were built in Del Norte County each year. All were single-family homes.

- Between 2019 and 2024, an average of 20 to 25 homes are expected to be built each year, the majority of which will be single-family.

Income per Capita

- Income per capita was $38,700 in 2018, which was below the Northern California average of $46,200.

- Over the last six years, real income per capita increased at a rate of 2.2 percent per year.
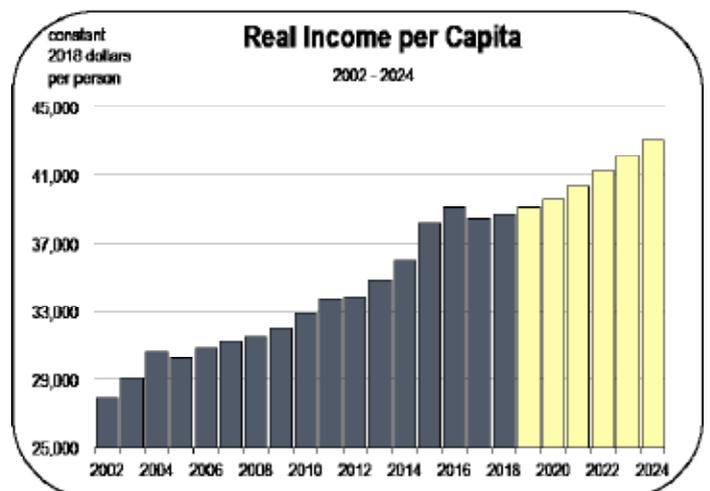
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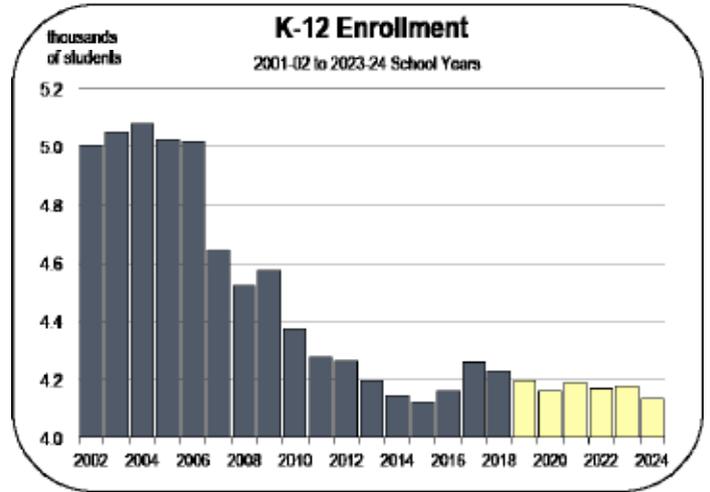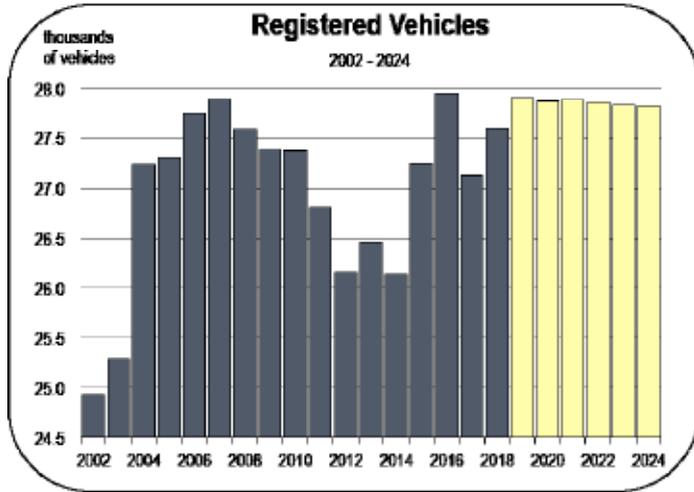
- Over the next six years, real income per capita is expected to increase by an average of 1.8 percent per year.

Registered Vehicles

- There were approximately 27,600 registered vehicles in Del Norte County in 2018.

- By 2024, it is expected that the county will have 27,800 registered vehicles.

Public School Enrollment

- In Del Norte County, approximately 4,200 students were enrolled in K-12 public schools in 2018.

- By 2024, the county is expected to have 4,100 public K-12 students. Enrollment will decline because the population aged 5 to 17 will decline.

Del Norte County Economic Forecast

Economic Indicators — 2015-2018 History, 2019-2050 Forecast

	Population (people)	House-holds (thousands)	Average Household Income (dollars)	New Homes Permitted (homes)	Registered Vehicles (thousands)	Personal Income (millions)	Taxable Retail Sales (millions)	Local Sales Tax (millions)	Real Industrial Production (millions)	Real per Capita Income (dollars)	School Enrollment (thousands)	Births (people)	Deaths (people)
2015	27,125	9.8	$97,786	18	27.2	$962.6	$178.3	$3	$115.4	$38,190	4.1	285	289
2016	26,992	9.8	$101,562	19	28.0	$997.5	$179.2	$3	$117.0	$39,033	4.2	302	312
2017	26,811	9.8	$102,191	16	27.1	$1,001.5	$181.1	$3	$114.1	$38,380	4.3	308	322
2018	27,275	9.7	$108,231	32	27.6	$1,054.5	$181.5	$3	$128.3	$38,661	4.2	316	332
2019	27,503	9.8	$111,997	29	27.9	$1,097.8	$186.0	$3	$132.6	$39,055	4.2	320	332
2020	27,601	9.8	$117,324	25	27.9	$1,153.2	$193.2	$3	$139.5	$39,613	4.2	320	335
2021	27,603	9.9	$122,295	21	27.9	$1,204.8	$199.4	$3	$142.4	$40,323	4.2	320	337
2022	27,577	9.9	$127,928	20	27.9	$1,262.8	$205.5	$3	$145.8	$41,246	4.2	320	341
2023	27,537	9.9	$133,342	20	27.8	$1,318.6	$212.1	$3	$149.0	$42,086	4.2	321	345
2024	27,499	9.9	$139,156	20	27.8	$1,378.5	$217.6	$3	$152.5	$43,062	4.1	322	348
2025	27,452	9.9	$144,917	19	27.8	$1,438.2	$222.4	$3	$156.2	$44,039	4.1	323	352
2026	27,418	9.9	$150,305	20	27.8	$1,494.2	$226.9	$3	$159.8	$44,863	4.0	323	355
2027	27,361	10.0	$155,765	19	27.8	$1,551.2	$230.9	$3	$163.9	$45,745	4.0	323	359
2028	27,319	10.0	$161,668	20	27.8	$1,612.8	$235.6	$4	$168.5	$46,545	4.0	324	362
2029	27,280	10.0	$166,350	20	27.8	$1,662.4	$239.8	$4	$171.7	$47,037	4.0	325	366
2030	27,216	10.0	$171,215	19	27.9	$1,714.0	$244.0	$4	$174.6	$47,640	3.9	325	370
2031	27,159	10.0	$175,783	19	27.8	$1,762.7	$248.1	$4	$178.2	$48,157	3.9	325	373
2032	27,094	10.0	$180,219	19	27.8	$1,810.2	$252.7	$4	$180.8	$48,536	3.9	326	376
2033	27,006	10.1	$185,096	18	27.8	$1,862.3	$256.3	$4	$184.3	$49,233	4.0	327	380
2034	26,921	10.1	$190,153	18	27.8	$1,916.2	$260.4	$4	$187.5	$49,849	3.9	328	384
2035	26,835	10.1	$195,455	18	27.8	$1,972.8	$264.9	$4	$190.6	$50,455	4.0	329	387
2036	26,736	10.1	$200,758	17	27.7	$2,029.5	$270.3	$4	$193.1	$50,858	4.0	330	389
2037	26,644	10.1	$206,378	18	27.7	$2,089.6	$276.1	$4	$195.6	$51,244	4.1	330	391
2038	26,533	10.1	$212,086	17	27.6	$2,150.7	$281.5	$4	$198.4	$51,753	4.1	330	393
2039	26,433	10.2	$218,012	17	27.6	$2,214.1	$287.4	$4	$200.9	$52,159	4.1	330	396
2040	26,316	10.2	$224,273	17	27.6	$2,281.2	$293.1	$4	$203.1	$52,693	4.1	330	397
2041	26,219	10.2	$230,006	18	27.5	$2,343.0	$298.3	$4	$206.1	$53,131	4.1	330	398
2042	26,099	10.2	$235,906	17	27.4	$2,406.2	$303.3	$5	$200.8	$53,679	4.1	331	398
2043	25,978	10.2	$241,868	17	27.4	$2,471.2	$308.1	$5	$194.2	$54,263	4.1	330	397
2044	25,858	10.2	$247,901	17	27.3	$2,536.5	$312.4	$5	$186.6	$54,943	4.1	330	397
2045	25,733	10.2	$253,926	17	27.3	$2,602.0	$317.3	$5	$179.8	$55,500	4.2	330	397
2046	25,595	10.3	$259,943	16	27.2	$2,667.5	$322.0	$5	$178.9	$56,111	4.1	329	397
2047	25,453	10.3	$265,992	16	27.2	$2,733.4	$326.7	$5	$176.0	$56,714	4.1	329	397
2048	25,310	10.3	$272,120	16	27.1	$2,800.2	$331.5	$5	$171.3	$57,313	4.1	329	396
2049	25,167	10.3	$278,336	16	27.0	$2,868.1	$336.4	$5	$167.4	$57,911	4.1	329	395
2050	25,025	10.3	$284,849	16	27.0	$2,939.3	$341.3	$5	$169.2	$58,548	4.1	329	394

Employment Sectors — 2015-2018 History, 2019-2050 Forecast

	Total Wage & Salary	Farm	Construction	Manufac-turing	Transportation & Utilities	Retail Trade	Financial Activities	Professional Services	Information	Health & Education	Leisure	Government
						----employment (jobs)----						
2015	8,130	308	152	77	0	1,016	186	209	80	1,403	763	3,838
2016	8,230	311	161	98	0	1,036	182	224	83	1,407	817	3,820
2017	8,350	325	172	122	0	1,020	180	211	80	1,522	887	3,722
2018	8,680	338	186	140	0	1,011	172	190	73	1,599	918	3,943
2019	8,810	335	182	145	0	1,021	167	203	72	1,620	936	4,012
2020	8,780	334	177	148	0	1,026	164	201	69	1,621	928	3,994
2021	8,780	334	175	149	0	1,024	162	200	68	1,627	917	4,008
2022	8,770	335	174	149	0	1,021	160	198	68	1,632	918	4,003
2023	8,760	335	173	150	0	1,017	159	197	67	1,637	913	4,000
2024	8,760	335	173	150	0	1,012	157	199	66	1,641	913	4,001
2025	8,770	335	173	151	0	1,007	157	201	65	1,645	912	4,012
2026	8,790	336	174	152	0	1,002	156	203	65	1,648	912	4,025
2027	8,800	336	173	154	0	995	155	204	64	1,649	912	4,039
2028	8,810	336	173	156	0	990	155	205	64	1,647	911	4,052
2029	8,820	336	173	158	0	984	155	206	63	1,648	912	4,064
2030	8,860	336	173	160	0	977	154	207	63	1,647	913	4,107
2031	8,840	336	173	161	0	970	154	208	62	1,646	913	4,093
2032	8,840	336	173	163	0	963	154	208	61	1,645	914	4,102
2033	8,850	337	172	165	0	954	153	208	61	1,642	915	4,122
2034	8,850	337	172	166	0	945	153	208	60	1,639	915	4,138
2035	8,860	337	172	168	0	937	153	208	60	1,636	916	4,151
2036	8,850	337	172	170	0	927	152	208	59	1,633	917	4,156
2037	8,840	337	172	171	0	918	152	208	59	1,629	917	4,158
2038	8,840	337	171	173	0	907	151	208	59	1,625	918	4,165
2039	8,830	337	172	174	0	897	151	208	59	1,621	919	4,167
2040	8,850	337	171	176	0	886	150	208	59	1,616	919	4,199
2041	8,820	338	172	178	0	877	150	208	59	1,612	920	4,180
2042	8,810	338	171	172	0	866	150	208	59	1,607	921	4,192
2043	8,800	338	171	165	0	854	149	208	59	1,601	921	4,205
2044	8,790	338	171	158	0	843	149	208	59	1,596	922	4,223
2045	8,780	338	171	151	0	832	148	208	59	1,590	922	4,237
2046	8,780	338	170	150	0	819	148	207	59	1,583	923	4,252
2047	8,770	338	170	147	0	807	147	207	59	1,576	924	4,268
2048	8,760	339	170	142	0	794	147	207	59	1,569	924	4,284
2049	8,760	339	170	139	0	782	146	207	59	1,562	925	4,299
2050	8,750	339	170	139	0	769	146	207	59	1,555	926	4,315

Del Norte County Economic Forecast

Socioeconomic Indicators

Violent Crime Rate, 2017 (crimes per 100,000 residents): Del Norte County 554, Northern California 519, California 449

Poverty Rate, 2018 (percent of households below poverty line): Del Norte County 16.7, Northern California 12.0, California 11.1

Median Household Income, 2018 (dollars per household): Del Norte County 47,900, Northern California 53,500, California 74,600

Median Home Selling Price, 2018 (dollars): Del Norte County 205,000, Northern California 256,800, California 559,900

Average Travel Time to Work, 2018 (minutes each way): Del Norte County 16, Northern California 22, California 32

Percent of Population Age 25+ With at Least a 4-Year College Degree, 2018: Del Norte County 15.0, Northern California 23.0, California 32.6