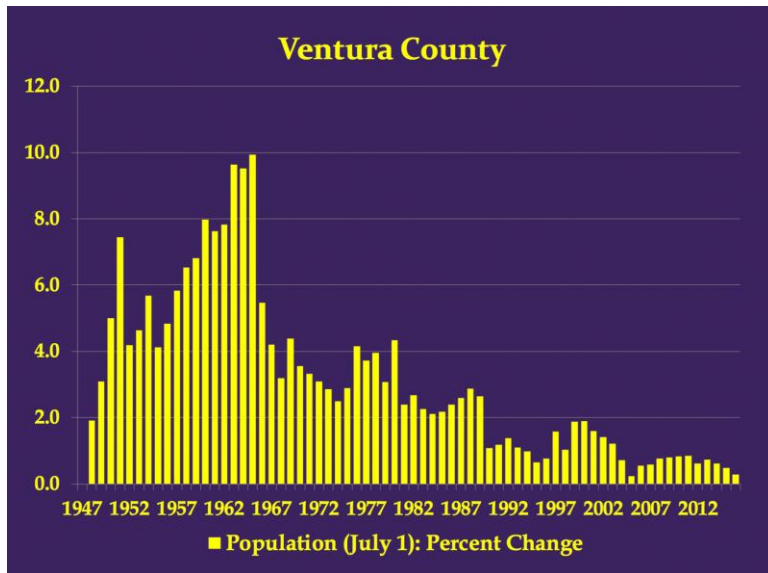


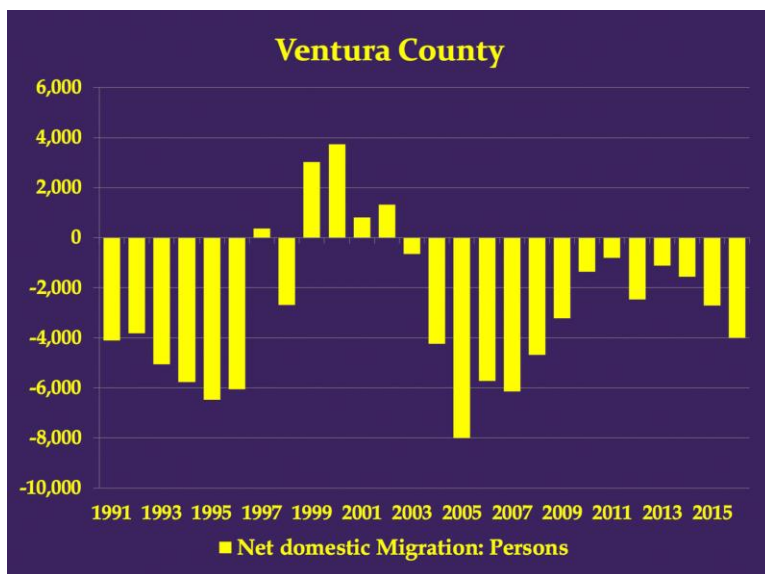
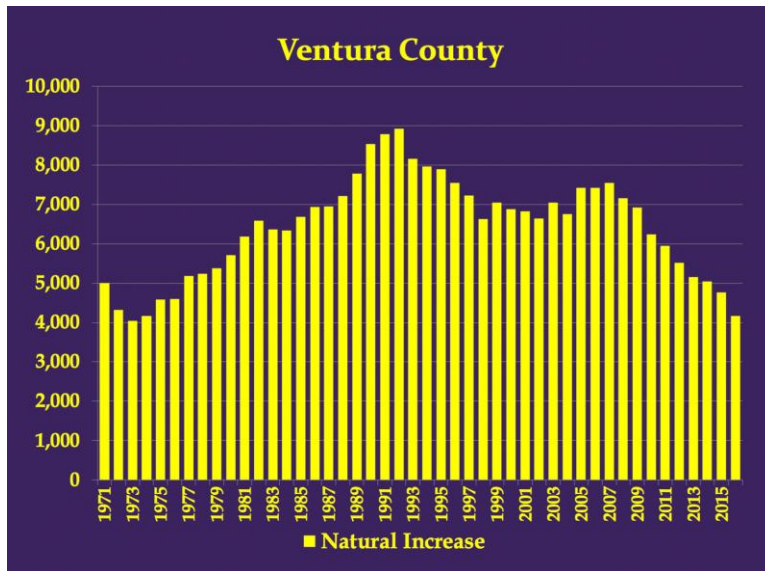
Demographics and Education

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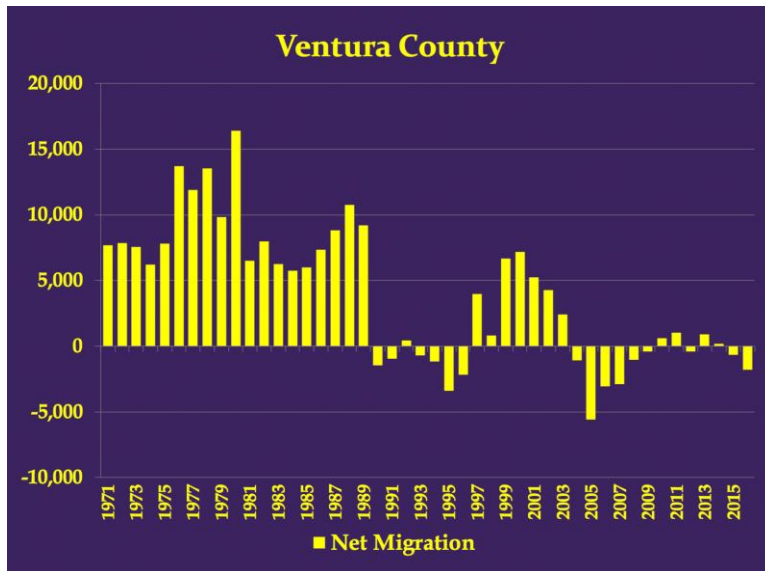
Population growth which has been declining in Ventura County since the early Sixties, seems to be plumbing a new bottom.



Several factors have conspired to push population growth down to very near zero. Ventura County's population grew just 0.28 percent in 2016. With births declining every year since the Great Recession and nearing a low not seen since the early 70s and with deaths increasing as part of a decades long trend, the natural increase in population (births minus deaths) has declined by more than 40 percent since 2007. Net domestic out-migration has increased as individuals and households flee the County in search of greater opportunity elsewhere. This domestic out-migration has nearly overwhelmed the natural increase in population. With younger, working age adults representing a disproportionate share of those leaving the County, net out migration may explain some of the decline in births.



Meanwhile, although it has been increasing modestly from a low in 2013, international migration to Ventura County is still very low relative to average from 2000 to 2010. As a result, total migration has been negative on average for the past decade and negative for each of the past two years. Net total migration actually declined significantly between 2015 and 2016.



When we consider the contribution of these migration patterns, we are left to wonder if Ventura County will see negative population growth in the near future.

The demographic wave which is building across the United States, as baby boomers enter their retirement years, is building even more rapidly in Ventura County. For a long time, the percentage of the population that is over the age of 65 has been lower in California than in the United States. As of 2000, that share was even lower in Ventura County than it was in California. Yet since 2000, the percentage of people over age 65 has increased 4.4 percent in Ventura County while it has only increased by 3 percent in California and 2.8 percent in the United States. There is no reason to think that this pattern will not continue.

	Share of Population Over Age 65 (percent)		
	United States	California	Ventura
2000	12.4	10.6	10.2
2016	15.2	13.6	14.6
Change ('00-'16)	2.8	3	4.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census (2016 ACS 1-year estimates)

With all of the compositional changes to Ventura County’s labor force, with the overall size of the labor force declining and net migration that is negative and accelerating, it seems that the County may be destined (doomed?) to become little more than a retirement enclave for the wealthy. Considering the abundance of open space and the magnificent views across orchards and row crops, it may indeed become a prized retirement enclave.

The dark side will be a very high level of income inequality, whereby low wage employees in the consumption economy that remains are simply priced out. Even more so than today, the County’s labor force will be required to combine multiple families into a single residence or to commute into the County over increasingly great distances. We suspect that the labor force will become more transient, with individuals remaining for several years before joining the thousands before them who have fled the County in search of the upward economic opportunity that is desperately lacking here.

We worry about the bi-modal economy that this represents—an economy of *haves* and *have-nots*, one in which the quality of life for which the County is famous is only enjoyed by an elite who can afford the high cost of admission. We do not see how this growing trend can occur without serious consequences in the form of strained communities and general social discord.

In contrast to the demographic patterns just discussed, data on Educational Attainment in Ventura County seems to compare favorably to other geographies. Ventura County’s High School graduation rate, while lower than that of the United States, is higher than California’s. The share of the population with a bachelor’s degree is higher than both California and the United States. The trend over time however is not as favorable. Since 2005, the increase in the percentage of individuals with a High School diploma increased 3.4 percent nationwide. In that same time, the percentage with a High School diploma increased only 1.1 percent in Ventura County. Since 2005, the percentage of individuals with at least a Bachelor’s degree has increased 4.1 percent. Ventura County saw an increase of only 3.8 percent.

Educational Attainment						
Education Attainment in Persons >25 Years	United States		California		Ventura County	
	HS Diploma	BA or Higher	HS Diploma	BA or Higher	HS Diploma	BA or Higher
2005	84.1%	27.2%	80.1%	29.5%	83.0%	29.8%
2010	85.6%	28.2%	80.7%	30.1%	82.1%	30.8%
2015	87.1%	30.6%	82.2%	32.3%	82.9%	32.7%
2016	87.5%	31.3%	82.4%	32.9%	84.1%	33.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census (ACS 1-year estimates)

One of the dominant stories with regard to Ventura County’s educational attainment is that the County continues to increase the number of individuals with college degrees in *other* geographies. Each year, the County produces significantly more college graduates than jobs for college graduates. Recent college graduates are very likely to be counted among those leaving the County each year in search of opportunity somewhere else.

Educational Attainment Detail 2016

	United States	%	California	%	Ventura County	%
Estimated Pop Age 25+ by Edu. Attainment	218,475,480		26,304,241		567,552	
1st grade	135,116	0.1	39,552	0.2	826	0.1
<u>2nd grade</u>	<u>292,082</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>90,988</u>	<u>0.3</u>	<u>1,553</u>	<u>0.3</u>
3rd grade	628,916	0.3	188,502	0.7	5,742	1.0
<u>4th grade</u>	<u>485,079</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>111,805</u>	<u>0.4</u>	<u>2,221</u>	<u>0.4</u>
5th grade	665,306	0.3	152,054	0.6	1,524	0.3
<u>6th grade</u>	<u>2,626,021</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>790,582</u>	<u>3.0</u>	<u>25,504</u>	<u>4.5</u>
7th grade	905,180	0.4	127,174	0.5	2,149	0.4
<u>8th grade</u>	<u>2,716,859</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>321,562</u>	<u>1.2</u>	<u>4,060</u>	<u>0.7</u>
9th grade	3,427,397	1.6	518,830	2.0	9,292	1.6
<u>10th grade</u>	<u>3,962,231</u>	<u>1.8</u>	<u>369,905</u>	<u>1.4</u>	<u>6,236</u>	<u>1.1</u>
11th grade	4,422,906	2.0	491,513	1.9	8,666	1.5
<u>12th grade, no diploma</u>	<u>3,906,796</u>	<u>1.8</u>	<u>682,268</u>	<u>2.6</u>	<u>11,742</u>	<u>2.1</u>
Regular high school diploma	50,697,695	23.2	4,784,486	18.2	94,274	16.6
<u>GED or alternative credential</u>	<u>8,676,085</u>	<u>4.0</u>	<u>606,449</u>	<u>2.3</u>	<u>10,946</u>	<u>1.9</u>
Some college, less than 1 year	13,458,846	6.2	1,494,632	5.7	35,503	6.3
<u>Some college, 1 or more years, no degree</u>	<u>31,636,502</u>	<u>14.5</u>	<u>4,107,766</u>	<u>15.6</u>	<u>94,078</u>	<u>16.6</u>
Associate's degree	18,259,841	8.4	2,031,775	7.7	52,014	9.2
<u>Bachelor's degree</u>	<u>42,242,395</u>	<u>19.3</u>	<u>5,426,164</u>	<u>20.6</u>	<u>115,645</u>	<u>20.4</u>
Master's degree	18,585,803	8.5	2,203,376	8.4	49,609	8.7
<u>Professional school degree</u>	<u>4,534,707</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>622,302</u>	<u>2.4</u>	<u>14,557</u>	<u>2.6</u>
Doctorate degree	2,971,372	1.4	408,628	1.6	10,618	1.9
Hispanic/Latino	32,331,742		8,703,787		205,075	
Less than 9th grade	6,255,679	19.3	1,995,304	22.9	51,010	24.9
<u>9th to 12th grade, no diploma</u>	<u>4,377,162</u>	<u>13.5</u>	<u>1,256,224</u>	<u>14.4</u>	<u>25,201</u>	<u>12.3</u>
Regular high school diploma	7,666,005	23.7	2,010,677	23.1	43,903	21.4
<u>GED or alternative credential</u>	<u>1,320,565</u>	<u>4.1</u>	<u>246,556</u>	<u>2.8</u>	<u>4,924</u>	<u>2.4</u>
Some college, no degree	5,708,764	17.7	1,633,774	18.8	39,144	19.1
<u>Associate's degree</u>	<u>2,041,816</u>	<u>6.3</u>	<u>503,809</u>	<u>5.8</u>	<u>14,692</u>	<u>7.2</u>
Bachelor's degree	3,385,826	10.5	751,327	8.6	18,956	9.2
<u>Graduate or professional degree</u>	<u>1,575,925</u>	<u>4.9</u>	<u>306,116</u>	<u>3.5</u>	<u>7,245</u>	<u>3.5</u>

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census (ACS 1-year estimates)