

## Plan Bay Area 2050: Regional Growth Forecast

The Regional Growth Forecast is an important input to Plan Bay Area 2050, the San Francisco Bay Area’s long-range plan developed by Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). The Plan Bay Area 2050 Regional Growth Forecast identifies how much the Bay Area might grow between the Plan baseline year (2015) and the Plan horizon year (2050), including population, jobs, households, and associated housing units. The forecast also includes important components of that growth, including employment by sector, population by age and ethnic characteristics, and households by income level. During the Blueprint planning phase, the Regional Growth Forecast is being used to identify the total amount of growth. These figures are then integrated into the Bay Area UrbanSim 2.0 land use model; UrbanSim explores how Blueprint planning strategies might affect the local distribution of growth in households and employment.

The Regional Growth Forecast Methodology was approved by the ABAG Executive Board in September 2019, and since then, staff have been working closely with technical experts to develop the nine-county forecasts over the 30-year planning horizon. The Draft Regional Growth Forecast was released in spring 2020, and subsequently revised to integrate the significant adverse effects of the coronavirus pandemic and 2020 recession on the first decade of the planning period. The Regional Growth Forecast proposed for approval is listed below in **Table 1**, with more technical information available on the Plan Bay Area 2050 Blueprint website<sup>1</sup>.

The Regional Growth Forecast proposed for adoption was used throughout the Draft Blueprint analysis in spring 2020, and the methodology and forecast results were posted in early July as part of the official public comment period. Further strategy revisions proposed for the Final Blueprint in **Attachment I** are anticipated to affect the more localized growth pattern on the county and sub-county levels, as well as the income distribution of Bay Area households; however, staff believe the impacts of such strategies would be *de minimis* on the regional totals that are the core of the nine-county totals featured in the Regional Growth Forecast.

Staff recommends carrying this Forecast forward into the Final Blueprint phase as the approved Regional Growth Forecast for Plan Bay Area 2050. Approval of the Forecast also satisfies one of the legal settlement requirements with the Building Industry Association from the original Plan Bay Area, in advance of the Plan Bay Area 2050 Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) this fall.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.planbayarea.org/sites/default/files/pdfs\\_referenced/Plan\\_Bay\\_Area\\_2050\\_-\\_Regional\\_Growth\\_Forecast\\_July\\_2020v2DV\\_0.pdf](https://www.planbayarea.org/sites/default/files/pdfs_referenced/Plan_Bay_Area_2050_-_Regional_Growth_Forecast_July_2020v2DV_0.pdf)

**Table 1: Regional Growth Forecast for Plan Bay Area 2050**  
*(Integrating Impacts from COVID-19 Pandemic & 2020 Recession)*

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>2035</b>	<b>2040</b>	<b>2045</b>	<b>2050</b>
Total Population	7,660,000	7,930,000	8,230,000	8,550,000	9,000,000	9,490,000	9,930,000	10,330,000
Total Employment	4,010,000	4,080,000	4,150,000	4,640,000	4,830,000	5,050,000	5,230,000	5,410,000
Total Households	2,680,000	2,760,000	2,950,000	3,210,000	3,500,000	3,710,000	3,890,000	4,040,000
Total Housing Units	2,710,000	2,840,000	3,060,000	3,370,000	3,670,000	3,900,000	4,080,000	4,250,000