

UNEMPLOYMENT

Job losses both locally and in Sacramento, where many residents commute for work, boosted the unemployment rate as the economy worsened 2008. Particularly hard hit were construction and retail sectors, and some public-sector jobs were eliminated as governments dealt with budget deficits.

	YUBA-SUTTER	COLUSA
July 2009	17.2%	16.1%
July 2008	11.8%	10.2%
July 2007	9.0%	8.2%

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor Statistics

GENERAL SALES

The closure of longtime retailers such as Mervyn's and Gottschalks, as well as downturns felt by auto dealers and furniture stores, accelerated a drop in sales tax revenues in 2007 and 2008. Local governments, which rely on sales tax revenue for much of their budgeting, began cutting in response.

COUNTY	2nd Qtr '07	2nd Qtr '08	2nd Qtr '09
Colusa	\$89,650	\$100,622	Numbers for 2nd Qtr 2009 not yet available
Sutter	\$385,791	\$350,253	
Yuba	\$145,330	\$139,364	

*Amounts in thousands of dollars

SOURCE: California Board of Equalization

AUTO SALES

The recession has been felt strongly by auto dealers, whose fortunes often follow housing. With U.S. automakers reeling in late 2008, local dealers felt the pinch as price-savvy consumers either passed on expensive trucks and SUVs or looked for foreign models.

COUNTY	2nd Qtr '07	2nd Qtr '08	2nd Qtr '09
Colusa	\$10.9	\$9.56	Numbers for 2nd Qtr 2009 not yet available
Sutter	\$55.9	\$43.7	
Yuba	\$12.3	\$9.3	

*Amounts in millions of dollars

SOURCE: California Board of Equalization

BANKRUPTCIES

Changes in bankruptcy laws in 2006 slowed the bankruptcy rate to a trickle for months afterward, but that number began rising again as people extended too far into credit – much of it tied up in their home loans and equity lines – began throwing their hands up in the face of soaring bills.

COUNTY	AUG. '07	AUG. '08	AUG. '09
Colusa	3	5	3
Sutter	22	39	46
Yuba	19	33	43

SOURCE: U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of California

MEDIAN HOME PRICE

As elsewhere, home prices began to fall to earth in 2007, then declined even further in 2008 and early 2009, as more homes lost to foreclosures came onto the market at reduced prices. Experts are unsure whether prices will continue to fall into 2010 or begin to stabilize, but relatively little home construction is happening at the moment.

	SUTTER CO.	YUBA CO.	COLUSA CO.
July 2009	\$160,000	\$155,000	\$120,000
July 2008	\$203,000	\$183,500	\$185,500
July 2007	\$290,000	\$274,000	\$277,000

SOURCE: MDA Dataquick, San Diego

FORECLOSURES

Mirroring the drop in home prices was the rise in foreclosures, as many homeowners couldn't deal with adjustable interest rates and "underwater" loans, and began giving homes back to the bank in 2007 and 2008. Foreclosure moratoriums have slowed the numbers somewhat this year.

COUNTY	JULY '07	JULY '08	JULY '09
Colusa	6	17	16
Sutter	24	98	53
Yuba	31	106	69

SOURCE: MDA Dataquick, San Diego

AID RECIPIENTS

County Health and Human Services departments saw more people on their food stamps programs as the economy worsened, many of them doing so because they'd lost their jobs, homes or both. County officials have said state cuts to such programs haven't helped.

COUNTY	AUG. '07	AUG. '08	AUG. '09
Colusa	427	466	514
Sutter	2,813	3,315	3,483
Yuba	3,933	4,254	5,119

SOURCE: Health and Human Services departments in Colusa, Yuba and Sutter counties

AGRICULTURAL SALES

A bright spot amid a lot of darkness, farmers competing on a world market saw record sales in recent years. Rice, peaches and tomatoes are among the most lucrative crops in the three-county region. Absent a weather or pest disaster, many experts believe agriculture will hold up through the economic downturn.

COUNTY	2007	2008	2009
Colusa	\$484.5	\$662.6	Numbers for 2009 not yet available
Sutter	\$377.9	\$498.1	
Yuba	\$153.4	\$181.3	

*Prices in millions of dollars

SOURCE: Agricultural Commissioner's offices in Colusa, Yuba and Sutter counties



The Gottschalks department store chain and its store in Yuba City was among the economy's casualties.