**State of the Valley Highlights – February 2018**<https://jointventure.org/publications/silicon-valley-index>

**People**17 and under decreased -0.2%   
18-24 decreased-1.5%

65 and older increased +1.5%

**Birth Rates**

Prior to 18 years ago, birth rates were increasing slightly in the valley and peaked exactly 18 years ago, birth rates have continued a consistent decrease up through 2017.

**Employment in the Valley – 2001 through 2017**

Science and engineering jobs make up a huge chunk of total employment, with 54% in Computer and Physical Engineering, 31% in Design, 7% in Bio-Tech.

Tier 1 = 25% of total Employment (26% for SF area)  
Occupations include managers (Chief Executives, Financial Managers, and Sales Managers), professional positions (Lawyers, Accountants, and Physicians) and highly-skilled technical occupations, such as Scientists, Computer Programmers, and Engineers, and are typically the highest-paying, highest-skilled occupations in the economy. In 2017, average earnings (assuming a 40 hour work week for the entire year) were $56.88 per hour or approximately $118,310 per year for Tier 1 occupations.

Tier 2 = 43% of total employment (38% for SF area)

Tier 2 Occupations include sales positions (Sales Representatives), teachers, and librarians, office and administrative positions (Accounting Clerks and Secretaries), and manufacturing, operations, and production positions (Assemblers, Electricians, and Machinists). They have historically provided the majority of employment opportunities and may be referred to as middle-wage, middle-skill positions. Earnings were $26.07 per hour or approximately $54,226 per year for Tier 2 occupations.

Tier 3 = 32% of total employment (36% for SF area)

Tier 3 Occupations include protective services (Security Guards), food service and retail positions (Waiters, Cooks, and Cashiers), building and grounds cleaning positions (Janitors), and personal care positions (Home Health Aides and Child Care Workers). These occupations typically represent lower-skilled service positions with lower wages that require little formal training and/or education. Earnings were $13.18 per hour or approximately $27,414 per year for Tier 3 occupations.

**Unemployment**

Down to 3% in the Valley – Latino/a and African Americans continue to make up the largest groups that are unemployed in the Valley.

**Job Growth**

Continues to increase over the past 7 years (+27%). Greatest areas of growth are:

**Innovation and Information Products and Services** **(+35%)** = Computer Hardware Design & Manufacturing; Semiconductors & related Equipment Manufacturing; Internet & Information Services; Technical Research & Development (Include Life Sciences); Software; Telecommunications Manufacturing & Services; Instrument Manufacturing (Navigation, Measuring & Electromedical); Pharmaceuticals (Life Sciences); Other Media & Broadcasting, including Publishing; Medical Devices (Life Sciences); Biotechnology (Life Sciences); and I.T. Repair Services.

**Community Infrastructure and Services** **(+23%)** = Healthcare & Social Services (including state and local government jobs); Retail; Accommodation & Food Services; Education (including state and local government jobs); Construction; Local Government Administration; Transportation; Banking & Financial Services; Arts, Entertainment & Recreation; Personal Services; Federal Government Administration; Nonprofits; Insurance Services; State Government Administration; Warehousing & Storage; and Utilities (including state and local government jobs).

**Business Infrastructure and Services (+21%)** = Wholesale Trade; Personnel & Accounting Services; Administrative Services; Technical & Management Consulting Services; Facilities; Management Offices; Design, Architecture & Engineering Services; Goods Movement; Legal; Investment & Employer Insurance Services; and Marketing, Advertising & Public Relations.

**Housing**

Median home prices continue to grow (+7% in 2017, $968,000) – highest in nation

Rental costs seem to be flat

Rise in multigenerational households between ages 18-40 more living at home

**Income, Poverty and Child Care**Average income varies drastically from $31,000 in service occupations to $107,000 in management, More than 10% of SV population lacks access to food

Child care costs steadily increasing – between 15,000 and 20,000 per year for infants and preschoolers

**Commute**

Commute times have increased by 17% adding an average of 43 minutes weekly per commuter and delays have more than doubled over the past decade

70% drive alone

While overall public transit use has gone down 15%, express bus service use has increased 31%

Ridership on private shuttles now represents the Bay Area’s 7th largest mass transit system

**High School Graduates and Drop Out Rates**10% of students do not complete high school – decreased from 12% six years ago

54% are NOT eligible for CSU or UC – increased from 47% six years ago