

SAN FRANCISCO

"THE NATION'S WESTERN CAPITAL"

(Prepared by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
Research Department)



Photo by R. L. Copeland, released by
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

Aerial View of Downtown San Francisco

SITUATION

San Francisco, "City by the Golden Gate," whose City Hall is situated at 37 degrees 47 minutes north latitude and 122 degrees 25 minutes west longitude, on a hilly peninsula with altitudes ranging from sea level to 933.6 feet U. S. Base, is bounded on three sides by water. Of a total of 93.1 square miles, only 46.38 are land. It is among the few world cities with the distinction of having more than half of its entire area washed daily by the ocean's tidal currents.

San Francisco has within its boundaries three islands—Yerba Buena, Treasure and Alcatraz—besides the Farallon Islands group some 32 miles west, which has been included in the City and County of San Francisco since 1872.

POPULATION

July 1, 1962, population estimate for San Francisco was 745,000, a small gain from 1960.

The 1960 U. S. Census gave San Francisco a population of 740,316, representing a loss from 1950 of about 4.5 per cent. Even though several cities in the Bay Area lost population in the decade, the losses were countered by sizable gains in the newer, outlying cities of the metropolitan area. Many of the older areas in the city have become less congested, and in most dwellings the total number of occupants has dwindled. Predominating nationalities of foreign-born residents: Italian, German, Irish, Canadian, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Mexican.

AREA, ALTITUDE, CITY FINANCES

Area—45.45 square miles (land, 46.38 including islands).

Altitude—Sea level to 933.6 feet city datum.

Assessed Valuation—\$2,126,085,079, all property, including \$83,867,706 veteran and welfare exemptions. \$8.48 tax rate (1960-61) includes \$0.017 levied by Rapid Transit District, but collected by City.

Bonded Debt—\$223,661,200 (June 30, 1961).

CLIMATE

San Francisco's unique location at the northern end of a narrow peninsula which separates San Francisco Bay from the Pacific Ocean and forms the southern shore of the Golden Gate—the only sea level entrance, through the Coastal Mountains into the Great Valley—causes this to be known as the air-conditioned city, with cool, pleasant summers and mild winters. Flowers bloom throughout the year, and warm clothing is needed in every month.

As a result of the steady sweep of air from the Pacific, there are few extremes of heat or cold. During the entire 88 years of temperature records in San Francisco, temperatures have risen to 90 degrees or higher on an average of but once a year and dropped below freezing less than once a year. As a rule, abnormally warm or cool periods last but a few days.

Pronounced wet and dry seasons are another characteristic of this climate. On the average, 84 per cent of the total annual precipitation falls during the five-month period November to March, leaving but 16 per cent for the remaining seven months of the year. Long-time records of the Weather Bureau reveal that the sun shines in San Francisco during 65 of every 100 possible hours.

CONSTRUCTION

In 1961, construction in San Francisco scored its third consecutive year of \$100 million or more in projects authorized by building permits. The total of \$110 million was a 15.1 per cent drop from 1960's record of \$130 million, but the number of permits issued was a new record at 13,720. A total of 2,883 dwelling units was authorized on 868 residential construction permits having a value of over \$45 million.

Some of the bigger projects authorized during 1961 included:

Woodrow Wilson High School	\$4,300,000
1200 California St. cooperative apts.	4,250,000
Royal Towers " "	4,011,000
The Nob Hill " "	3,700,000
ILWU-PMA " "	3,100,000
Bay View Federal Savings & Loan Assn. (ofc. bldg.)	3,000,000

During 1961, several major office buildings were completed, including the \$5,580,000 International Bldg., Wells-Fargo Bank headquarters building, and the annex to the State Office Bldg.

Other major projects under way at the start of 1962 included:

Federal Office Bldg. and Court House	\$32,512,000
Hilton Hotel	15,000,000
Alice Griffith Garden Homes (public housing)	5,108,000
The Fontana cooperative apts.	5,080,000
Lowell High School	4,421,000
Southern Freeway, Bayshore to Milton Ave.	4,273,000

Nearly \$157 million worth of construction was authorized or was under way at the end of 1961.

Work on the Federal Office Bldg. is well along, with steel work