

From the Silicon Valley Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/sanjose/news/2020/05/19/facebook-survey-covid-small-business-impact.html>

Coronavirus roundup: Facebook survey shows Covid-19's devastating effect on small biz

May 19, 2020, 7:29am PDT

Facebook has come out with a new survey of small businesses and the results don't look good.

Done in partnership with the Small Business Roundtable, the "State of Small Business Report" looked at about 86,000 small business owners in April. At that time, about 31% of the owners surveyed said their businesses are no longer operating, with 11% expecting to fail in the next three months if conditions continue as they are now.

"Small businesses are the heartbeat of our communities — and they're in real trouble," Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg said in the report, alongside John Stanford and Rhett Buttle, co-executive directors of the Small Business Roundtable. "The pandemic isn't just a public health emergency, it's also an economic crisis. Since the first shelter-in-place orders, it has been clear that many businesses were going to take a big hit, but now we can hear from the people behind the businesses just how big a hit they are taking."

On the employee front, about 45% of the business owners surveyed said they would rehire the same workers who had been laid off or furloughed as a result of the



JASON HENRY/THE NEW YORK TIMES

A third of the business owners surveyed in Facebook's "State of Small Business Report" said their businesses are no longer operating, and more than 10% expect to fail in the next three months if conditions don't change.

pandemic. Seventy-four percent of employees said they didn't have access to paid sick leave, and 70% said they didn't have paid time off.

However, despite the dire numbers, the survey also found that business owners were finding ways to adapt to the crisis, turning to the Internet and digital services to keep their businesses going. Fifty-one percent reported increasing online interactions with clients, and 57% of owners said they are optimistic or extremely optimistic about the future of their businesses.

The report states that it is the first in an ongoing series, planned before the pandemic struck: "We had anticipated this first report would paint a much brighter picture," it stated. "Instead, it brings home the scale of the crisis that our economy is facing and helps point to where help is most needed."

In other Covid-19-related news:

Alphabet Inc.-owned **Verily is launching a new research project** to study Covid-19 and the coronavirus that causes it. Its initial effort will focus on the human immune response to infection, offering serology testing to people who have already received a nasal swab test through Verily. This study seeks to study antibodies and whether they confer long-term immunity to the disease, as well as see how it spreads.

In response to a projected \$38.8 million budget shortfall for the coming fiscal year, manager-level employees working for the city of Palo Alto will participate in what City Manager Ed Shikada calls a **"compensation giveback" of 15%**. Shikada himself will return an additional 5% and said he will take a 20% pay cut — losing \$71,202 out of a \$356,013 salary. Palo Alto Online reports that the action will not solve the city's budget deficit, but will reduce it by about \$5 million.

San Mateo County Health Officer Dr. Scott Morrow **amended the county's health order** on May 15 with new changes effective Monday. According to Almanac News, the revised order allows retail shops to open, with restrictions that include only providing curbside pickup for orders placed in advance and spaced so as to not crowd walkways. Lower risk businesses such as car washes, pet groomers and janitorial services can reopen, along with outdoor museums and offices where it is not possible for employees to conduct business from home.

As of May 18, Santa Clara County has 2,470 reported Covid-19 cases and 135 deaths, Alameda County has had 2,387 cases and 82 deaths, Santa Cruz County

says it has had 163 cases and 2 deaths, San Benito County put its number of infections at 6 still-active cases (out of 61 total confirmed), and two deaths. As of May 17, San Mateo County reports 1,671 cases and 66 deaths, and Monterey County says it has had 344 total cases and 8 deaths.

CASES

2,453 Cases

127.2 per 100,000

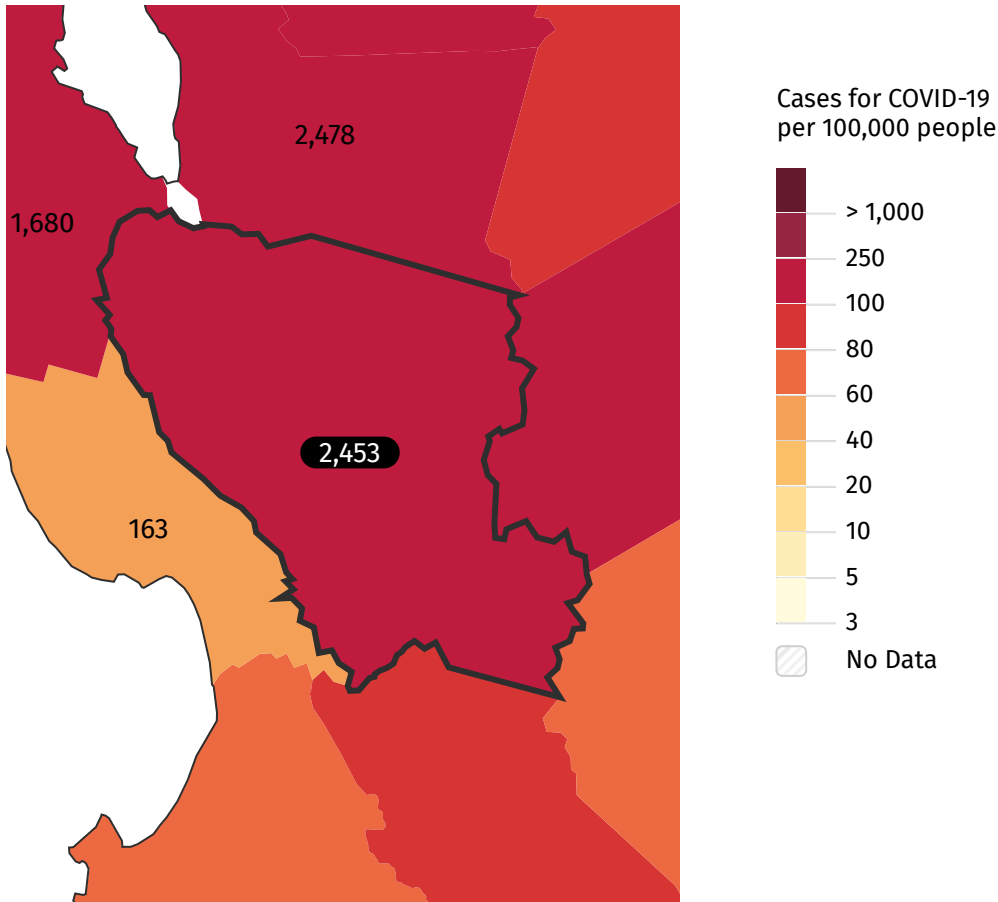
FATALITIES

137 Fatalities

7.1 per 100,000

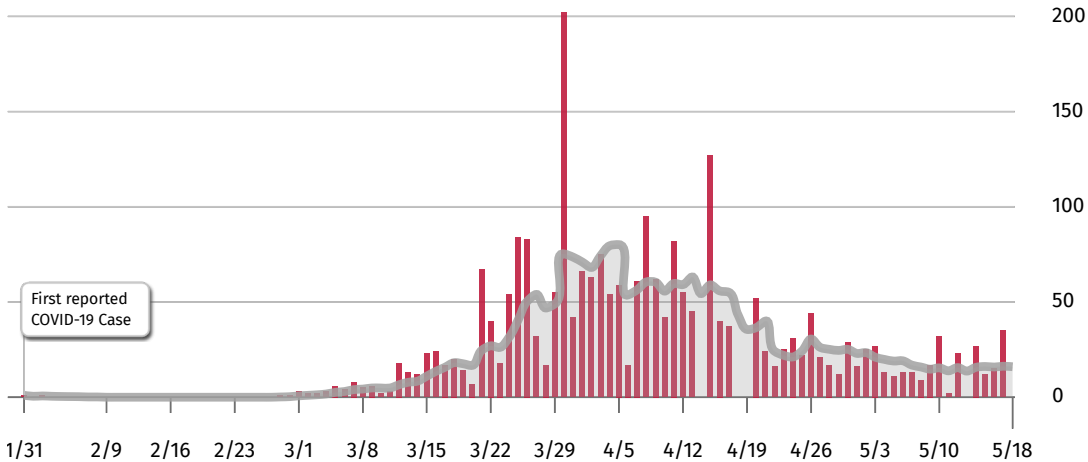
Santa Clara County, CA

Population 1,927,852



Daily new cases across Santa Clara County, CA

Line denotes a 7-day average of new cases



Data last updated 5/19/2020, 12:45:03 PM

CASES

81,943 Cases

207.4 per 100,000

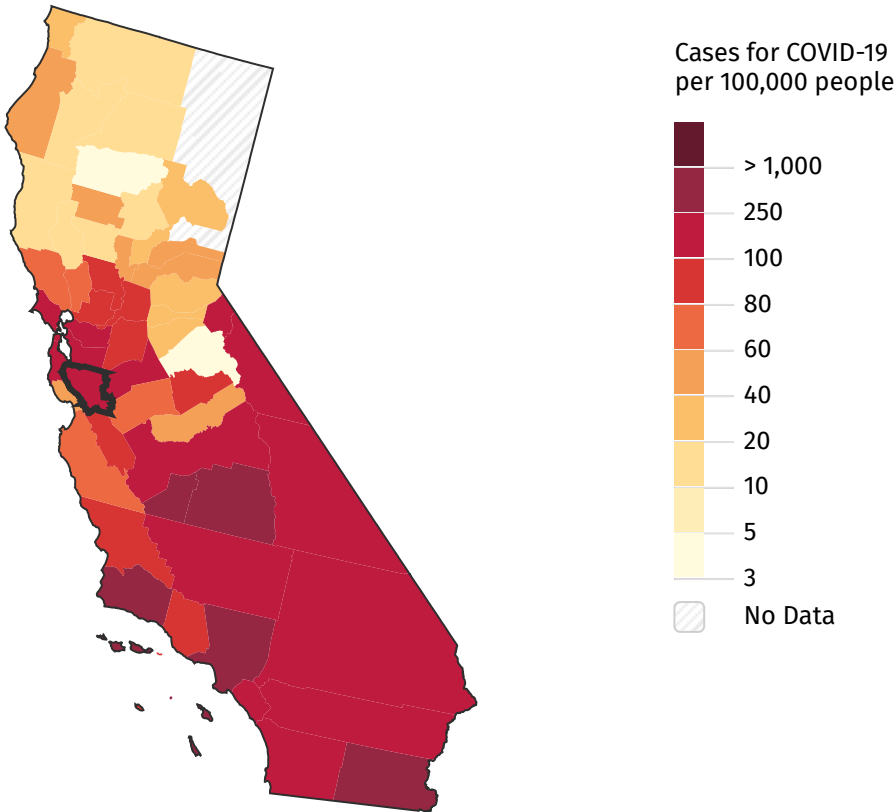
FATALITIES

3,322 Fatalities

8.4 per 100,000

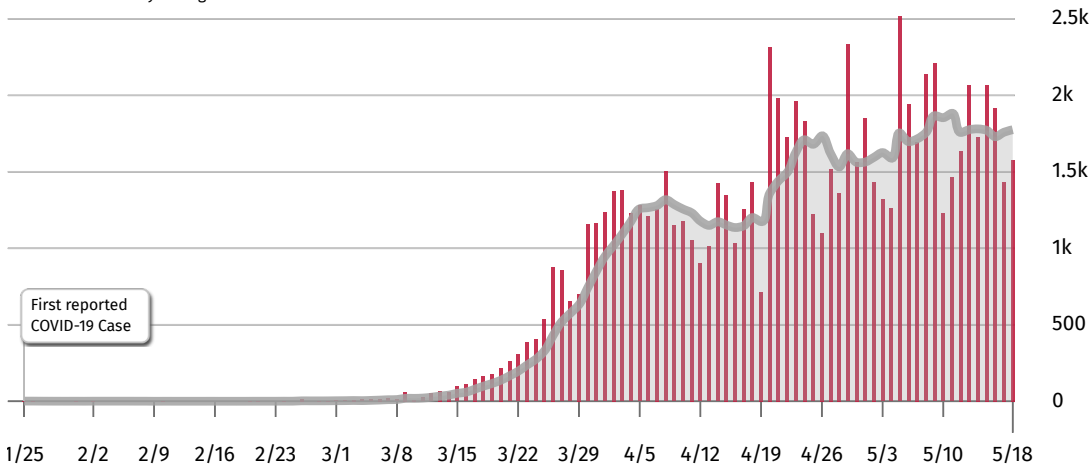
California

Population 39,512,223



Daily new cases across California

Line denotes a 7-day average of new cases



Data last updated 5/19/2020, 12:45:03 PM

This site was developed using daily data from [The New York Times](#), based on reports from state and local health agencies.

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Ryan Fernandez

Associate editor

Silicon Valley Business Journal

