

Top 20 Private Employers

The Tribune's seventh annual Business Top 20 identifies and provides information about the largest non-governmental employers in San Luis Obispo County. These firms are bellwethers of their industries.

RANK	COMPANY AND LOCATION	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN SLO COUNTY AND COMPANYWIDE	DESCRIPTION	2006 REVENUES & NET INCOME FOR PARENT COMPANY	COMMENTS
1	PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC CO. 406 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo * www.pge.com	1,750 locally (1,500 at Diablo Canyon) 20,000 companywide	Owned by San Francisco-based PG&E Corp. (NYSE: PCG), the utility provides and generates electricity and natural gas and owns the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant.	\$12.5 billion \$991 million	PG&E, which plans to meet 20 percent of customers' electricity needs through renewable resources by 2010, is experimenting with various clean-power alternatives. At Diablo Canyon, above-ground storage facilities for highly radioactive waste are being built. The utility may begin using the facility in fall 2008, though its plan is facing challenges from residents concerned about safety.
2	COMPASS HEALTH INC. 200 S. 13th St., Suite 205, Grover Beach; nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Arroyo Grande, Morro Bay, Atascadero, San Luis Obispo and Templeton; Custom House restaurant and Mr. Rick's bar in Avila Beach; Downtown Brewing Co. (Paso Robles, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo) * www.compass-health.com	1,200 locally 1,240 companywide	The privately owned corporation includes eight senior nursing and assisted-care facilities that serve about 750 residents, five restaurants and an art gallery.	Undisclosed	The elder-care company grew during 2006 by adding a skilled nursing facility in San Luis Obispo and opening new Downtown Brewing restaurants in Paso Robles and Santa Barbara. It also recently expanded into art, partnering with sculptor Dale Evers to open a gallery in Paso Robles. While its core business remains health care, Compass is eyeing further expansion in the restaurant business.
3	TENET HEALTHCARE CORP. Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center, 1010 Murray Ave., San Luis Obispo; Twin Cities Community Hospital, 1100 Las Tablas Road, Templeton * www.tenethealth.com	1,170 locally (730 at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center; 440 at Twin Cities Community Hospital) 64,100 companywide	Based in Dallas, Tenet (NYSE: THC) is the nation's second largest investor-owned health care provider, with 55 acute-care hospitals in 12 states.	\$8.7 billion \$803 million loss	The hospital chain, continuing its turnaround effort, divested nine hospitals and enhanced its focus on core markets last year. In the county, Tenet has been making significant investments in facilities, technology and services, including a 62,000-square-foot addition at Twin Cities. It also has plans to build a five-story parking garage and a 45,000-square-foot medical office building at Sierra Vista.
4	KING VENTURES 285 Bridge St., San Luis Obispo * www.kingventures.net	899 locally 1,188 companywide	The real estate development company is involved in commercial real estate; construction and planning; upscale hotel design; construction and management; and restaurant operations. Its Boutique Hotel Collection includes The Apple Farm, SeaVenture Resort, Inn at Morro Bay, Sycamore Mineral Springs Resort, The Cliffs Resort and Avila Hot Springs, plus five properties outside SLO County.	Undisclosed	King Ventures continues to evolve its hotel and resort property enterprises. In 2006, the company sold a hotel in Solvang, but is at various development stages on four new resorts in California, including a 280-room resort, conference center and golf course in Paso Robles. Last year, the company sold its A.J. Spurs restaurants in Templeton, Arroyo Grande and Buellton, but continues to own the A.J. Spurs at its Marina Dunes Resort.
5	CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE WEST Arroyo Grande Community Hospital, 345 S. Halcyon Road, Arroyo Grande; French Hospital Medical Center, 1911 Johnson Ave., San Luis Obispo * www.chwhealth.org	853 locally (390 at Arroyo Grande Community and 463 at French) 38,940 companywide	Catholic Healthcare West, based in San Francisco, operates 42 acute-care facilities and two medical practice groups in California, Arizona and Nevada. It is the nation's eighth-largest hospital system and the largest hospital provider in California.	\$6.7 billion \$438 million	CHW, which has more than 8,588 physicians and nearly 39,000 employees in its system, unveiled a new cardiac catheterization lab this year at French Hospital. It is the first phase of the new Copeland, Forbes and Rossi Cardiac Care Center, which will also include a second catheterization lab, expanded intensive-care unit, observation unit and new surgical equipment.
6	VONS Eight stores in Atascadero, Grover Beach, Los Osos, Morro Bay, Nipomo, Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo * www.vons.com	674 locally 31,141 (Vons division) and 200,000 (Safeway) companywide	Headquartered in Arcadia, Vons is a division of Safeway Inc. (NYSE: SWY) based in Pleasanton. The grocery-and-drug retailer operates 1,755 stores in North America.	\$40.2 billion (Safeway) \$870 million (Safeway)	Safeway Inc. remains focused on remodeling its stores under its "lifestyle" format, featuring subdued lighting, olive bars and in-store Starbucks kiosks. At the end of last year, it had 751 such stores, including those in San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, Grover Beach and Nipomo. All locations are expected to be remodeled by 2009. In 2006, Safeway introduced an organically grown and processed line of nearly 200 products named O Organics.
7	SUPERVALU/ALBERTSONS Six Albertsons stores in Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Morro Bay, Paso Robles and two stores in San Luis Obispo * www.supervalu.com	658 locally 200,000 companywide	Based in Eden Prairie, Minn., SUPERVALU owns about 1,200 Albertsons grocery stores, including six in San Luis Obispo County.	\$40 billion \$452 million	When the company bought Albertsons in June 2006, it sold off half of the grocery stores and all of its stand-alone Sav-On stores to Cerberus. The stand-alone Sav-Ons were then converted to the CVS retail brand. SUPERVALU kept the Sav-On brand and all Sav-On pharmacies already located within Albertsons stores.

Top 20 Private Employers

The Tribune's seventh annual Business Top 20 identifies and provides information about the largest non-governmental employers in San Luis Obispo County. These firms are bellwethers of their industries.

RANK	COMPANY AND LOCATION	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN SLO COUNTY AND COMPANYWIDE	DESCRIPTION	2006 REVENUES & NET INCOME FOR PARENT COMPANY	COMMENTS
8	WAL-MART 1168 W. Branch Road, Arroyo Grande; 180 Niblick Road, Paso Robles * www.walmart.com	554 locally More than 1.8 million companywide and worldwide	Based in Bentonville, Ark., Wal-Mart (NYSE: WMT) is the world's largest retailer, with 4,068 stores in the United States. The company operates under the retail banners of Wal-Mart store, Wal-Mart Supercenter, Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market and Sam's Club.	\$345 billion \$12.2 billion	Wal-Mart is the world's largest corporation, according to the 2007 Fortune 500. Sales grew nearly 12 percent over the previous year, and net income from continuing operations rose 6.7 percent. During the past year, Wal-Mart rolled out a \$4 generic prescription program. This June, it announced plans to expand its financial-service centers more than fourfold by 2009 to 1,000 stores. Customers will be able to cash checks, pay bills and transfer money at 450 centers by the end of the year, double the locations open now. Locally, controversy over Wal-Mart's bid to build a Supercenter in Atascadero continues.
9	MID-STATE BANK & TRUST * 1026 Grand Ave., Arroyo Grande, with 16 branches in the county in Cambria, Cayucos, Morro Bay, Los Osos, Paso Robles, Templeton, Atascadero, San Luis Obispo, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, Arroyo Grande and Nipomo * www.midstatebank.com * The bank name will change to Rabobank N.A. in late September.	459 locally (post-merger) 1,742 (Rabobank N.A.) and 56,000 (Rabobank) companywide (post-merger)	Founded in 1961, the bank -- which had been owned by Mid-State Bancshares holding company -- completed its merger with Dutch financial group Rabobank on April 30.	\$2.36 billion total assets (pre-merger) \$35.3 million (pre-merger)	Mid-State Bank & Trust shareholders voted in favor of the merger with Rabobank, which has pledged to keep open all of Mid-State's 41 branches, retain all frontline employees and continue to invest in the network. The \$851 million purchase -- or \$37 per share in cash -- is part of the private bank's strategy to expand in agricultural markets throughout California.
10	THE HOME DEPOT Operates stores on El Camino Real in Atascadero and Froom Ranch Road in San Luis Obispo * www.homedepot.com	370 locally 355,000 companywide	Home Depot, the world's largest home-improvement retailer, has 2,176 stores in North America, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Mexico and China.	\$90.8 billion \$5.8 billion	The company (NYSE: HD) has been recognized by Fortune magazine as the No. 1 Most Admired Specialty Retailer and the No. 13 Most Admired Corporation in America for 2006. The company launched its Eco Options program in 2007 with more than 2,500 environmentally-friendly products. Home Depot has no plans for expansion in this area for 2007-08.
11	MARTIN RESORTS Headquarters at 1201 Palm St., San Luis Obispo, with six hotels in Avila Beach, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach and Shell Beach * www.martinresorts.com	368 locally and companywide	The Paso Robles Inn was bought in 2001, followed by Pismo Lighthouse Suites, Best Western Shore Cliff Lodge, Best Western Shelter Cove Lodge and Shell Beach Inn. Avila Lighthouse Suites opened in 2005. Together, the hotels offer 385 rooms or suites. The privately owned company also owns Pelican Point Restaurant at Shore Cliff Lodge and the Paso Robles Inn Steakhouse.	Undisclosed	During 2006, Martin Resorts added employees in Avila Beach and at the corporate level. Avila Lighthouse Suites should finish its 970-square-foot day spa facility this summer. The company hopes to add a spa, exercise facility and meeting space or offices in a building next to the Paso Robles Inn in 2008. With no further plans for expansion, the company expects employment to remain steady.
12	COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS OF THE CENTRAL COAST 150 Tejas Place, Nipomo, with clinics in Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Cambria, Guadalupe, Morro Bay, Oceano, San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria, Lompoc, Paso Robles and Templeton * www.chccc.org	355 locally 399 companywide	With 18 sites from Cambria to Lompoc and four mobile medical units, Community Health Centers of the Central Coast is a private, nonprofit health care provider that targets low-income, uninsured and underinsured individuals. The clinics offer medical, dental, mental health, health education, preventive care, pregnancy and outreach services. The nonprofit also operates pharmacies in Atascadero and San Luis Obispo.	\$36 million N/A	The 29-year-old nonprofit expects to add about 20 employees in the next year. It will open a clinic in San Miguel, where it now operates a mobile unit twice weekly. It bought a dental practice in San Luis Obispo, added a second center in Morro Bay and continues to expand to the south, in Santa Maria and Guadalupe. Its clinics served 50,000 patients who had about 250,000 visits in 2006.
13	ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY INC. 1030 Southwood Drive, San Luis Obispo, with service sites countywide * www.eocslo.org	307 full-time, 47 substitute/temporary 733 full-time, 1,091 substitute/temporary companywide	Founded in 1965, EOC is a private, nonprofit corporation. It provides advocacy and direct services to more than 39,000 low-income residents in 10 California counties. It offers a wide range of supportive services, including education and child care resources, elderly day care, sheltering for the homeless, child abuse prevention, reproductive health and home weatherization.	\$8.2 million in SLO County; \$45.3 million Statewide Not applicable	EOC says its services are more important than ever as low-income households struggle to make ends meet. High costs of housing, gas and food are forcing families into food banks, soup lines and homeless shelters. EOC is working to develop a North County shelter, redesign the San Luis Obispo shelter/day center, assess child-care needs countywide, and support a variety of child/family development services and skill-building programs to increase family stability and self-sufficiency.

Top 20 Private Employers

The Tribune's seventh annual Business Top 20 identifies and provides information about the largest non-governmental employers in San Luis Obispo County. These firms are bellwethers of their industries.

RANK	COMPANY AND LOCATION	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN SLO COUNTY AND COMPANYWIDE	DESCRIPTION	2006 REVENUES & NET INCOME FOR PARENT COMPANY	COMMENTS
14	JOSLYN SUNBANK CO. 1740 Commerce Way, Paso Robles * www.sunbankcorp.com	270 locally 555 companywide (285 additional in Tijuana, Mexico)	A wholly owned subsidiary of Washington, D.C.-based Danaher Corp. (NYSE: DHR), Sunbank makes conduits and thermoplastics for military, aerospace and industrial customers. Danaher owns 218 facilities that employ about 45,000 people; its companies design, make and sell tools, components and technologies for professional, medical, industrial and consumer markets.	\$9.6 billion (Danaher) \$1.12 billion (Danaher)	Founded in the 1950s, the company was bought by Danaher Corp. in 1995. It added about 20 employees in Paso Robles and 15 in Tijuana in the past year. Danaher reported a 20 percent increase in sales in 2006, with 49 percent from foreign countries. Earlier this year, the Paso manufacturer was ordered to pay the state \$495,000 for improper hazardous waste disposal discovered in 2005, which officials said was fixed immediately.
15	KENNEDY CLUB FITNESS 3534 El Camino Real, Atascadero; 1299 James Way, Arroyo Grande; 188 Tank Farm Road, San Luis Obispo * www.kennedyclubs.com	270 locally and companywide	Based in Atascadero, it's the county's largest local health-and-fitness-club chain, with three facilities and a fourth being added in Paso Robles. Kennedy Club offers aquatics, basketball, personal training, child-care services and massage.	Undisclosed	Due to declining use, Kennedy closed the SLO downtown site in June. The club is researching whether there is sufficient demand to run a lunch-time shuttle from the downtown to its newer facility on Tank Farm Road. The 50,000-square-foot club and 50-meter outdoor pool in Paso Robles are scheduled to open this fall, with at least 70 employees being hired to staff that location.
16	FOOD 4 LESS 8360 El Camino Real, Atascadero; 1465 Creston Road, Paso Robles; 3985 S. Higuera St., San Luis Obispo * Web site under development	265 locally 2,650 companywide (PAQ Inc. and QSI Inc.)	Stockton-based supermarket chain PAQ Inc. purchased the local Food 4 Less stores from Milt Souza in 2006. The privately owned PAQ has nine other Food 4 Less stores and three Rancho San Miguel Markets. The firm also has 12 Times Supermarkets in Hawaii under the name QSI Inc.	\$636 million Undisclosed	The company recently opened a Rancho San Miguel Market in Merced, with three more planned for Madera and Stockton in the next few years. PAQ's new format, Quinn's Market, is aimed at higher-end, middle-income consumers. The company seeks opportunities to open new stores in San Luis Obispo County and Santa Maria. Next year, PAQ also plans to spend \$500,000 to \$700,000 on improvements at the Atascadero Food 4 Less, including skylights and refrigerator cases.
17	F. MCLINTOCKS 750 Mattie Road, Shell Beach, with restaurants in Arroyo Grande, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach and San Luis Obispo * www.mclintocks.com	230 locally and companywide	Based in Shell Beach, F. McLintocks is owned by CEO Tunny Ortali and Bruce and Toney Breault. The restaurant chain includes four F. McLintocks restaurants and Steamers of Pismo.	About \$15 million Undisclosed	According to Ortali, neither expansion of restaurants or canned food lines are currently planned.
18	APPLIED TECHNOLOGIES ASSOCIATES 3025 Buena Vista Drive, Paso Robles; two facilities near the Paso Robles Municipal Airport * www.ata-sd.com	225 locally and companywide	The privately owned manufacturer designs and builds technology products for oil field surveying and logging. Since 1986, it has been affiliated through common ownership with Scientific Drilling International in Houston, providing that firm with research and development.	Undisclosed	The company does not expect any changes in employment levels. Despite the cost of living, it does not intend to move because Paso Robles has a "quality of life" draw for engineers. Owner Don Van Steenwyk's family also owns Adelaida Cellars.
19	SPECIALTY SILICONE FABRICATORS 3077 Rollie Gates Drive, Paso Robles, with locations in Michigan and Tustin * www.ssfab.com	220 locally 335 companywide	The manufacturer of silicone rubber products specifically focuses on the medical device industry. Founded in 1984, the privately held company has mostly full-time employees.	Undisclosed	The company has continued to experience sales growth, as well as added employees, but would not say how much, according to a company spokesman. Its patents and some of its processing technology continue to fuel the growth. It operates at three buildings with a total of 72,000 square feet near the Paso Robles airport.
20	THE TRIBUNE 3825 S. Higuera St., San Luis Obispo with offices in Paso Robles, Cambria and Morro Bay * www.sanluisobispo.com	200 locally and companywide	Sacramento-based McClatchy Co. (NYSE: MNI) purchased The Tribune as part of a \$4.5 billion deal for Knight Ridder in 2006. The countywide daily Tribune has a circulation of 38,400 daily and 43,400 on Sundays. The company also produces two weekly newspapers, The Cambrian and the Sun Bulletin, other special publications. Its Web site is a leading provider of local news. McClatchy is the third-largest newspaper company in the country.	\$30.9 million (Tribune), \$1.68 billion (McClatchy) \$156 million net loss (McClatchy)	With a decline in real estate advertising, the company has reduced its work force by about 5 percent from last year. More resources are being devoted to the Web site. Circulation is also down slightly as the newspaper has reduced certain subscription discounts.

NOTE: Companies are ranked based on the number of permanent full-time equivalent employees. Financial data for parent companies have been used in cases where subsidiary revenue and profit figures were not disclosed.

SOURCE: Companies and industry analysts

UPDATED: 07-08-07

ECONOMIC VITALITY CORP.

www.sloevc.org