

Appendix B: Comparison Between the 1997 and the 2004 AMBAG Forecasts

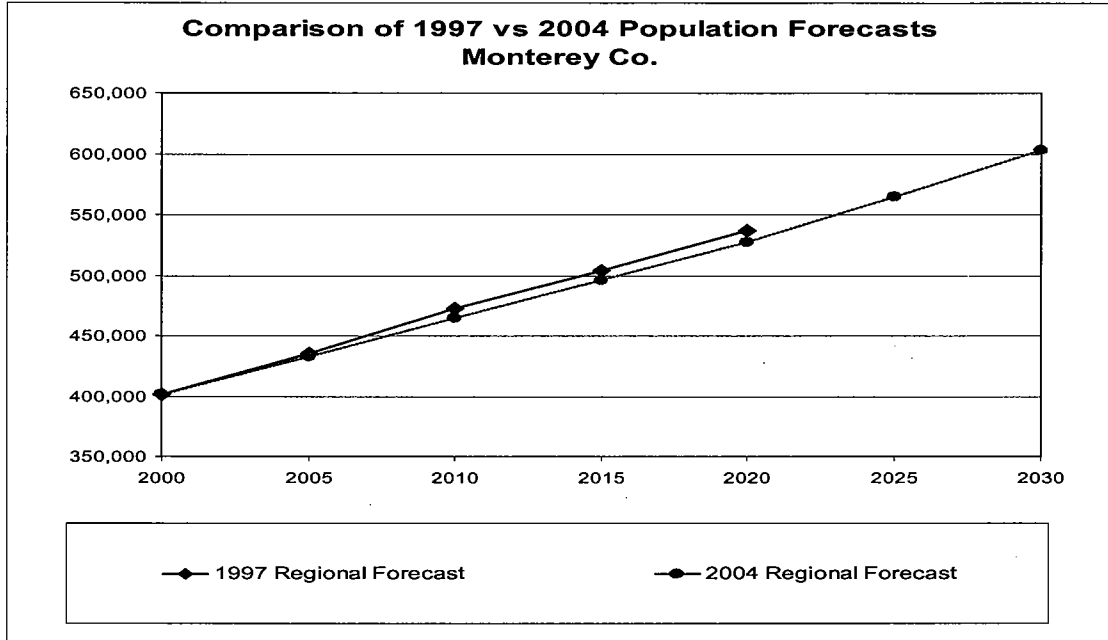
AMBAG updates its regional forecasts periodically to incorporate the latest demographic data available and to expand the forecast's horizon year. The 1997 AMBAG regional forecasts covered the period between the years 2000 and 2020 in five-year increments.

The 2004 AMBAG regional forecasts extend the horizon year to 2030. As a general comparison, for the year 2020, the 2004 AMBAG regional population forecast forecasts almost 26,000 less people will live in the region than are forecasted in the 1997 AMBAG forecast. While the overall forecast is lower, the region will still see its population increase by 185,000 persons between the years 2000 and 2020. Lower annual growth rates in the 2004 AMBAG regional forecasts reflect the forecasted lower total population number. The average annual growth rate over the 20-year period in the 1997 AMBAG regional forecast is 1.35 percent while the average annual growth rate over the same period in the 2004 AMBAG regional forecasts is 1.19 percent. There are two reasons for the difference between the two forecasts. Monterey County's forecasted population growth rates went down as a result of new demographic data. Santa Cruz and San Benito County's forecasted population growth rates were reduced to reflect growth control policies in place in each county. Tables 31, 32 and 33 compare the two population forecasts at the county level for Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties, respectively.

The employment forecasts from the 1997 and 2004 AMBAG regional forecasts are compared in Table B-1. For the year 2000, the 1997 AMBAG regional forecast estimated there are almost 345 thousand employees in the three-county region. The 2004 forecasts show almost 394 thousand employees for the year 2000. Differences in each forecast's methodology regarding how part time employment is counted accounts for some of the difference in numbers of employees between the two forecasts. Average annual growth between 2000 and 2020 is 1.17% in the 1997 AMBAG regional forecast and 1.42% in the 2004 AMBAG regional forecast. The 2004 forecast's forecast for higher employment growth in the region accounts for the increase in the gap between the employment numbers in the two forecasts. By 2020, the 2004 AMBAG regional employment forecast forecasts almost 85 thousand more employees than what is forecasted in the 1997 AMBAG regional employment forecast.

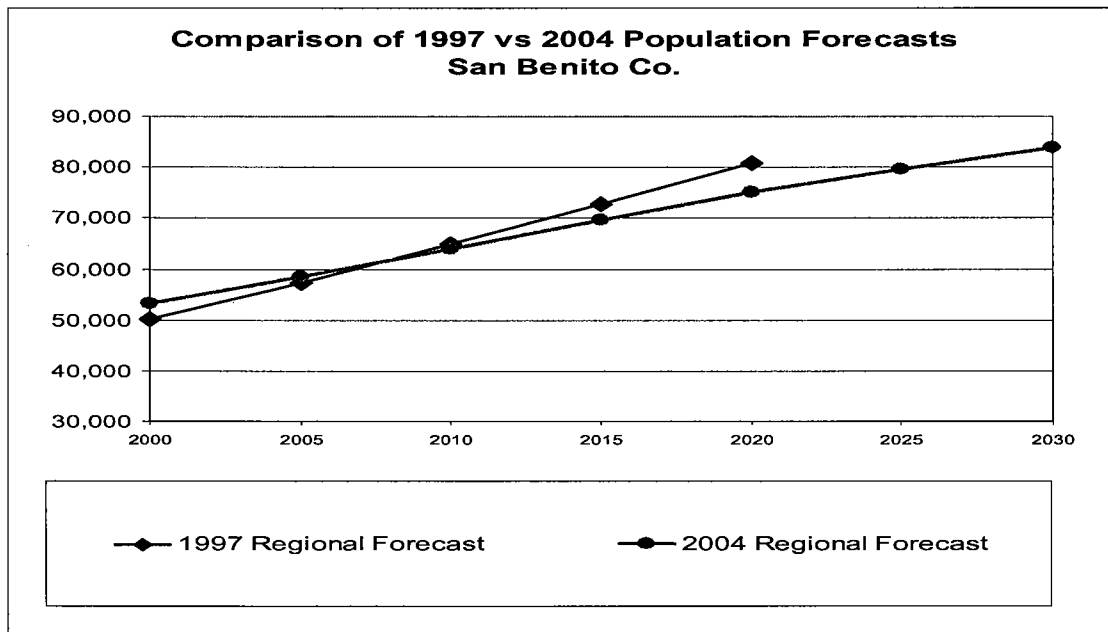
In Monterey County the average annual growth rate between 2000 and 2020 is 1.41 percent in the 2004 AMBAG regional forecast and 1.51 percent in the 1997 AMBAG regional forecast. This one tenth percent difference resulted in the forecasted population for the year 2020 to be approximately 9,500 less people in the 2004 AMBAG regional forecast.

TABLE B-1



San Benito County's average annual percent growth reduced significantly, from 2.5% in the 1997 AMBAG regional forecasts to 1.8% in the 2004 AMBAG regional forecasts. The difference in year 2020 population between the two forecasts is approximately 5,500.

TABLE B-2



Santa Cruz County's average annual percent growth reduced slightly, from 0.84% in the 1997 AMBAG regional forecasts to 0.69% in the 2004 AMBAG regional forecasts. The difference in year 2020 population between the two forecasts is approximately 11,000.

TABLE B-3

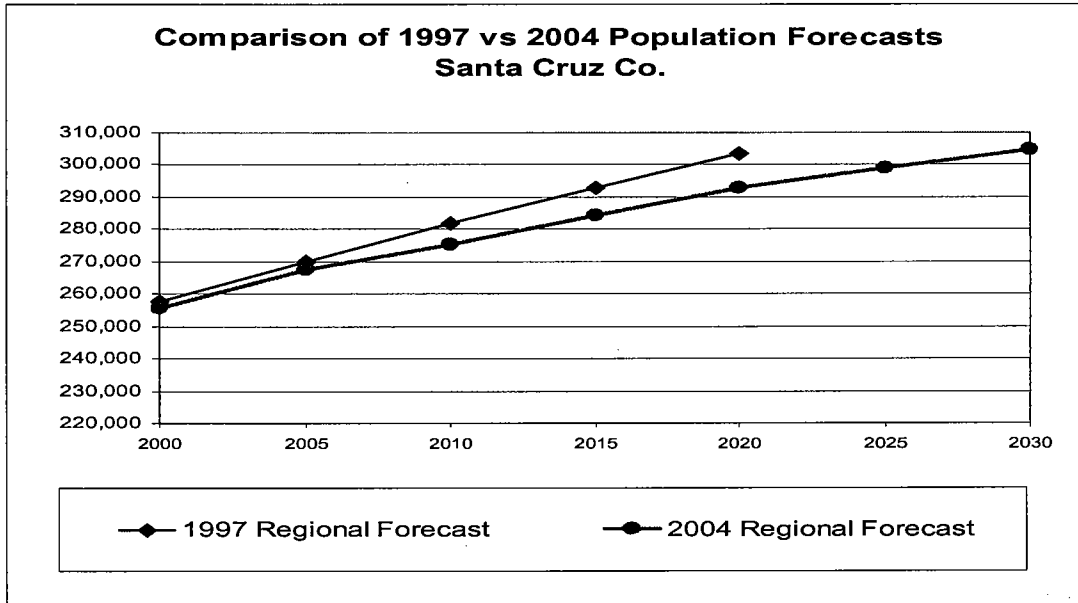


TABLE B-4

