



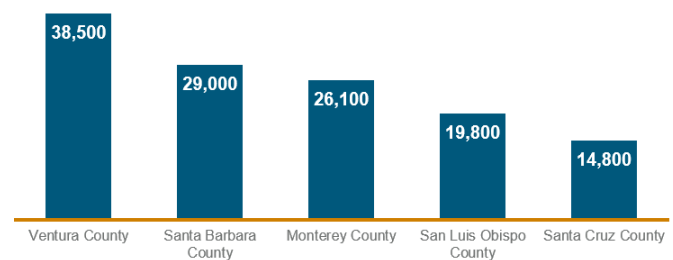
Andriy Moskalyk
Labor Market Consultant
May 2022

As summer approaches, people are planning to travel more, especially as pandemic restrictions continue to wane. Resulting increased tourism to California's Central Coast could bring with it a needed boost to the leisure and hospitality industry.

The industry itself is of great importance to the Central Coast¹ economy. Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, it was ranked among the top five industries by employment in every county in the region. Ventura had the most leisure and

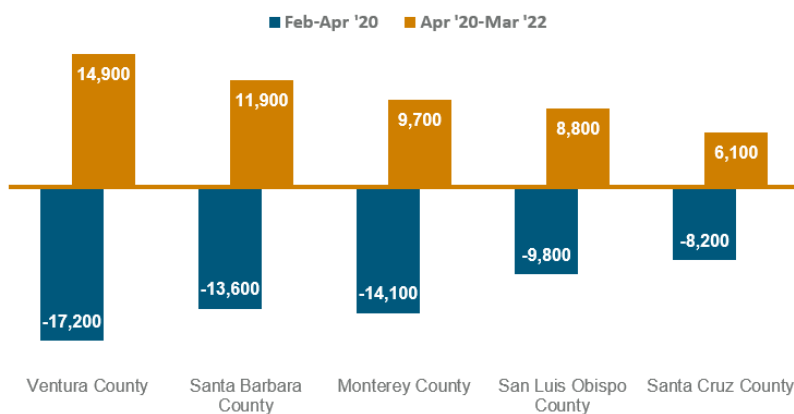
hospitality jobs (38,500) of any county in the region. Though San Luis Obispo had comparatively fewer leisure and hospitality jobs (19,800), the industry comprised a greater share of jobs (16 percent) in the county than anywhere in the Central Coast. The rest of the counties tied at a 13 percent share of total all industry jobs. Please, refer to Figure 1 for a comparison of the total number of leisure and hospitality jobs by county in 2019.

FIGURE 1. LEISURE & HOSPITALITY EMPLOYMENT
2019 ANNUAL AVERAGES



Due to public safety restrictions on travel and person-to-person contact, leisure and hospitality experienced the greatest job losses of any industry. On the Central Coast, the industry accounted for between 35 to 52 percent of all job losses.² Since that initial loss, recovery varied across the five

FIGURE 2. LEISURE & HOSPITALITY EMPLOYMENT CHANGES



counties. As of March 2022, the greatest recovery in leisure and hospitality was in San Luis Obispo County (90 percent), followed by Santa Barbara County (88 percent). The smallest recovery was in Monterey (69 percent) and Santa Cruz (74 percent) counties. Falling in the middle, Ventura County has recovered 87 percent of the jobs lost in leisure and hospitality. Please, refer to Figure 2 for more information on the number of jobs lost and recovered in the Central Coast.

It remains to be seen how leisure and hospitality will fare in the coming months. Given the recovery during the last 23 months and possibly more travel coming this summer, we may see additional job gains within this important industry.

¹ Central Coast is defined here as consisting of Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and Santa Cruz counties

² February 2020 to April 2022