



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Ventura County Profile

- **Ventura County** (Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, CA Metropolitan Statistical Area) covers 2,208 square miles, and had a July 1, 2008 population of 830,300; an increase of 77,000 since 2000. The County's population is slightly larger than that of the state of South Dakota and of the Albuquerque, NM MSA.
- A quick **demographic profile** of Ventura County indicates that 52.6% of the population is white non-Hispanic, 36.7% is Hispanic, 6.6% is Asian-Pacific Islander, and 1.7% is black. 82% of the population has a high school diploma or more, while 30% has a bachelor's degree or more. (American Community Survey 2007)
- Ventura has a diverse **economic base** (based on the concept of "industry clusters) using 2007 average employment as a measure. The leading industries are: 1.) tourism and hospitality with 19,000 workers; 2.) wholesale trade & logistics with 14,500 workers; 3) health services & biomedical with 13,800 workers; 4.) direct international trade with 13,700 workers; and 5.) professional & business services with 13,300 workers.
- There is a significant cluster of **new technology** activities in Ventura County, with a concentration around Camarillo. Bio-med giant Amgen is based in Thousand Oaks.
- There is also an **international trade** component to the County's economy, due to Port Hueneme. This is a "break-bulk" facility that handled 3,970,700 tons of cargo in 2007. The major commodities are cars, and fruit and vegetables.
- On the **higher and specialized education** front, there are California Lutheran University and several community colleges. The new California State University-Channel Islands opened in Camarillo in 2002 and is rapidly expanding its programs.
- Besides Port Hueneme and the freeways, Ventura County has **transportation** service by both Amtrak and Metrolink. Commercial air service is available at Santa Barbara to the north, or Burbank Airport and LAX in LA County.
- **Quality of life** is a strong suit for Ventura County. It has about 40 miles of coast line, including two small craft harbors. There is Lake Casitas, the famed Ojai resort area, plus the Los Padres National Forest. There is still a significant agricultural presence in the County, which provides an unusual ambiance.