



*Economic Vitality,  
Trade & Jobs*

## VENTURA COUNTY PROFILE

- **Ventura County** (which is a metropolitan area) covers 2,208 square miles, and has a July 1, 2005 population of 815,500, an increase of 146,400 persons since 1990. The County's population is slightly larger than that of the Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA MSA.
- A quick **demographic profile** of Ventura County indicates that: 56.8% of the population is white non-Hispanic, 33.4% is Hispanic, 5.4% is Asian-Pacific Islander, and 1.8% is black. 80% of the population have a high school diploma or more, while 27% have a bachelor's degree or more. (2000 Census)
- Ventura has a diverse **economic base** (based on the concept of "export" of goods or services) using 2005 average employment as a measure. The leading industries were: 1.) agriculture/food products manufacturing with 24,400 jobs; 2.) tourism with 19,900; 3.) technology with 19,200; 4.) financial services with 12,300; and 5) health services/bio-medicine with 11,100.
- 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 4,606,300 tons of cargo in 2005. The major commodities are cars, and fruit and vegetables.
- On the **higher and specialized education** front, there is California Lutheran University, and several community colleges. The new California State University-Channel Islands opened in Camarillo in 2002.
- 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.
- **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.

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