



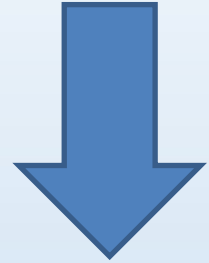
LABOR FORCE
224,200



EMPLOYED
209,400



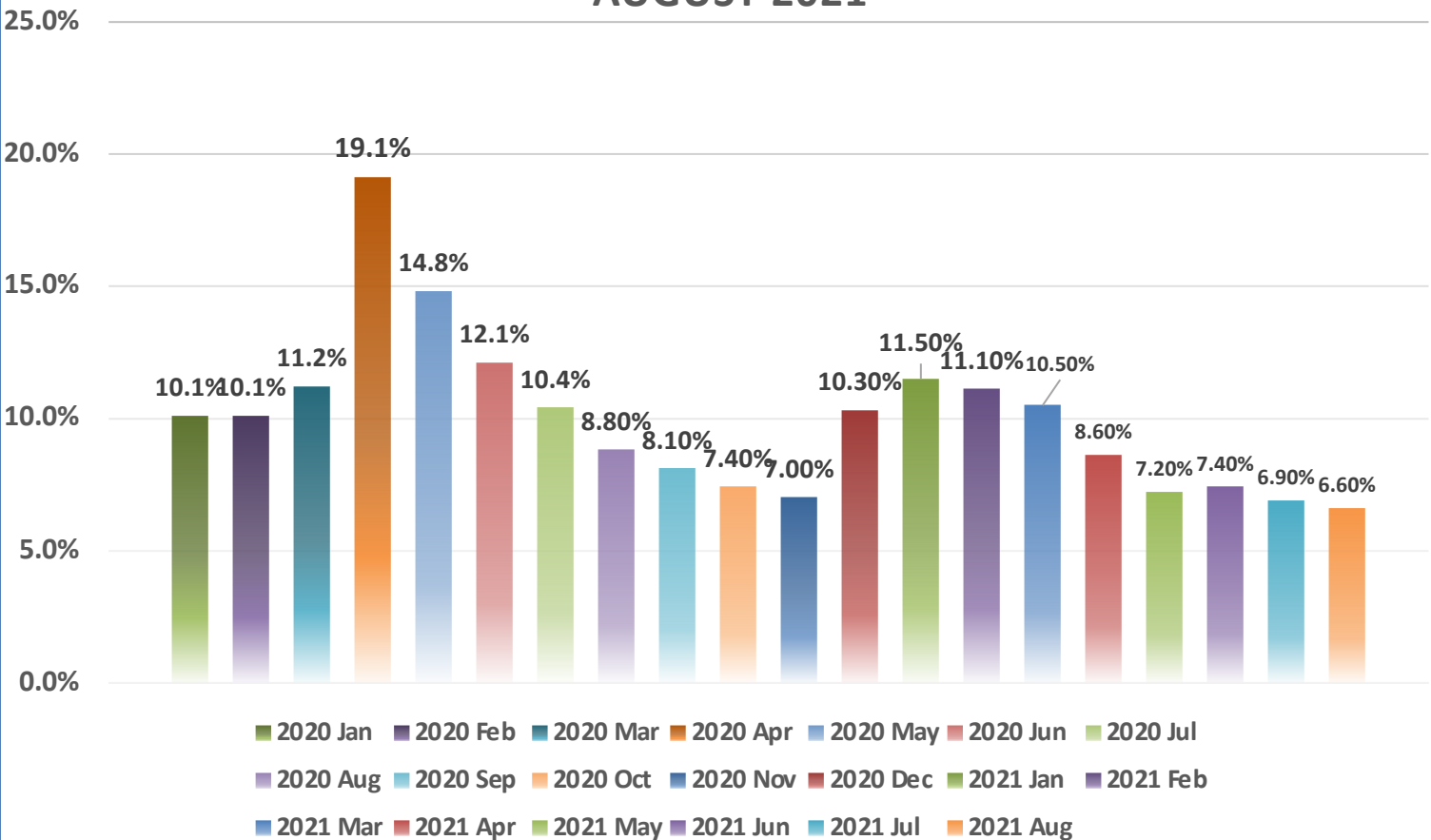
UNEMPLOYED
14,800



UNEMPLOYMENT
6.6%

The unemployment rate in the Monterey County was 6.6 percent in August 2021, down from a revised 6.9 percent in July 2021, and below the year-ago estimate of 8.8 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 7.5 percent for California and 5.3 percent for the nation during the same period. Monterey County Unemployment decreased by -22.5% (-4300) and the Labor Force increased by 4,500 from August 2020. EDD Sept. 17, 2021

**MONTEREY COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENT
AUGUST 2021**

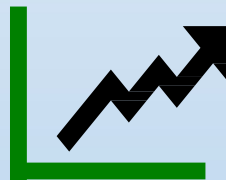




**Total Gain in Jobs
Farm/AG**
2,800



**Key Sector Gain
Accommodations**
3,200



**Key Sector Gain Food
Services and Drinking
Places**
1,800

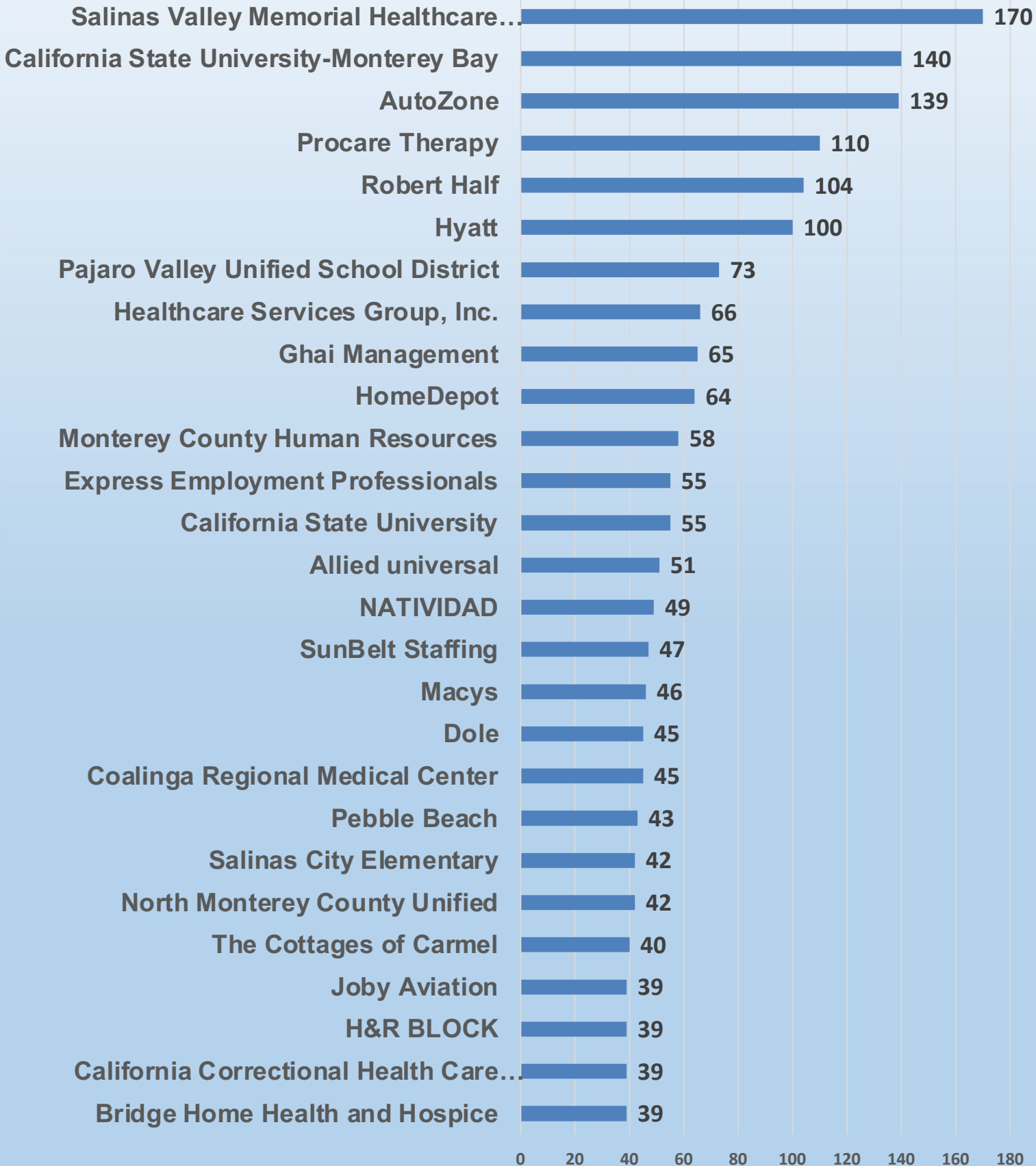


Major Sectors Employment Change August 2020 – August 2021

	August 2020	August 2021	Change
Total All Industries	198,800	207,600	8,000
Total Farm	67,900	70,700	2,800
Total Nonfarm	130,900	136,900	6,000
Construction	6,300	7,000	700
Manufacturing	4,700	4,400	-300
Retail Trade	15,300	15,600	300
Information	700	900	200
Financial Activities	4,100	4,000	-100
Professional & Business Services	14,800	15,200	400
Health Care and Social Assistance	17,900	17,900	0
Accommodations	5,100	8,300	3,200
Food Services and Drinking Places	11,000	12,800	1,800
Government	33,800	32,400	-1,400

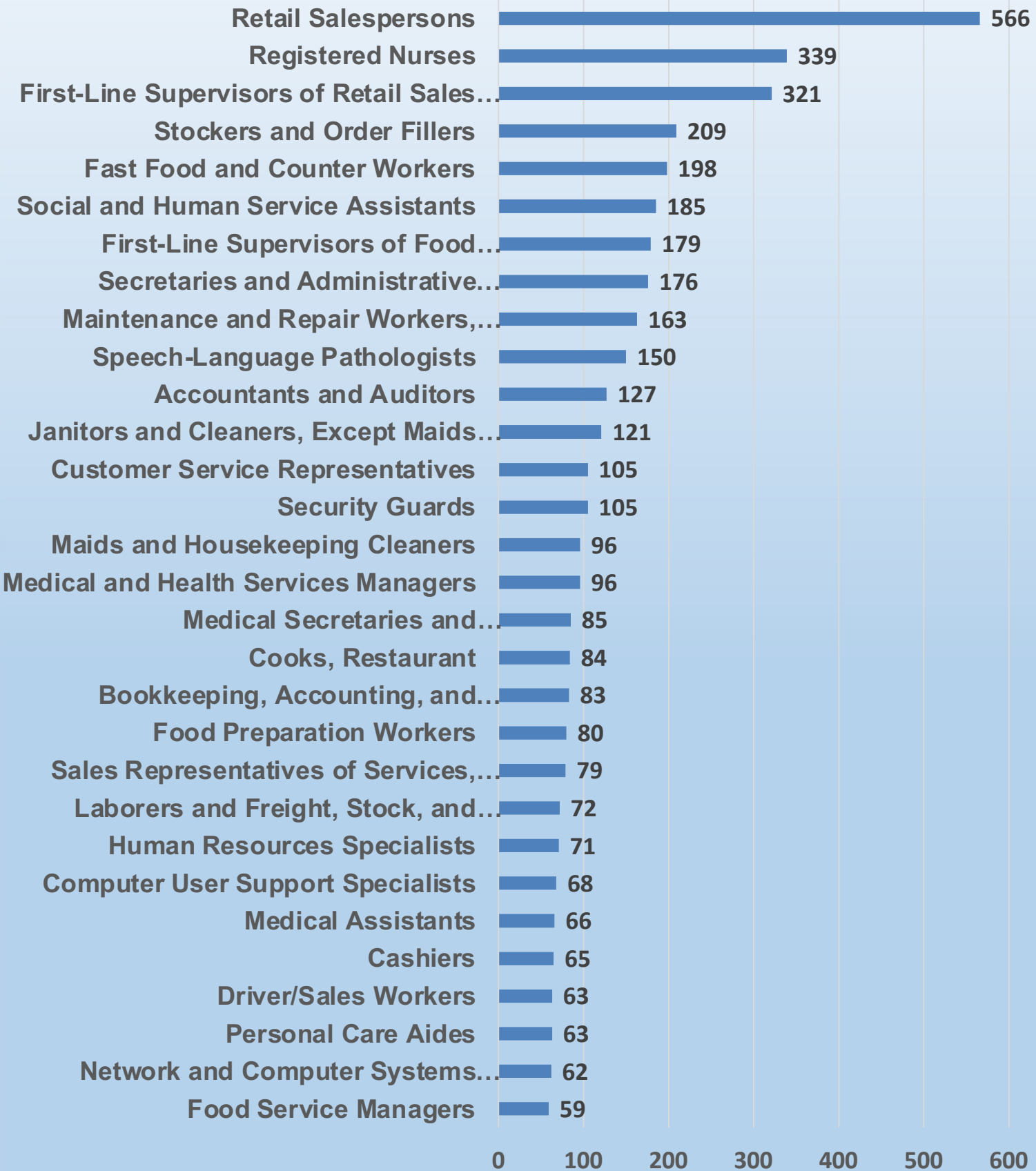
MONTEREY COUNTY Job ADS By Employers

Jobs EQ August 15, 2021 – September 14, 2021



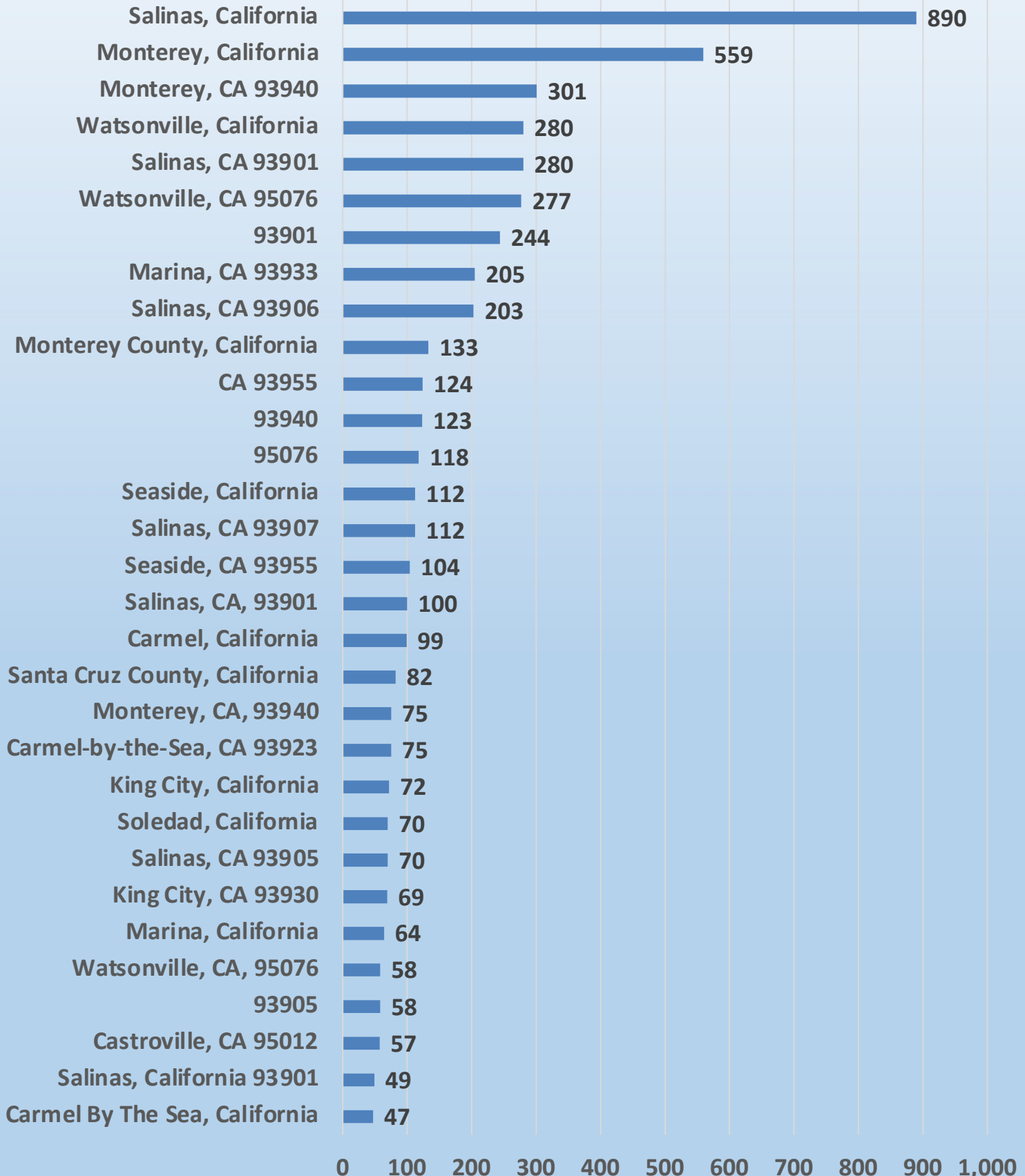
MONTEREY COUNTY Job ADS By Occupations

Jobs EQ August 15, 2021 – September 14, 2021

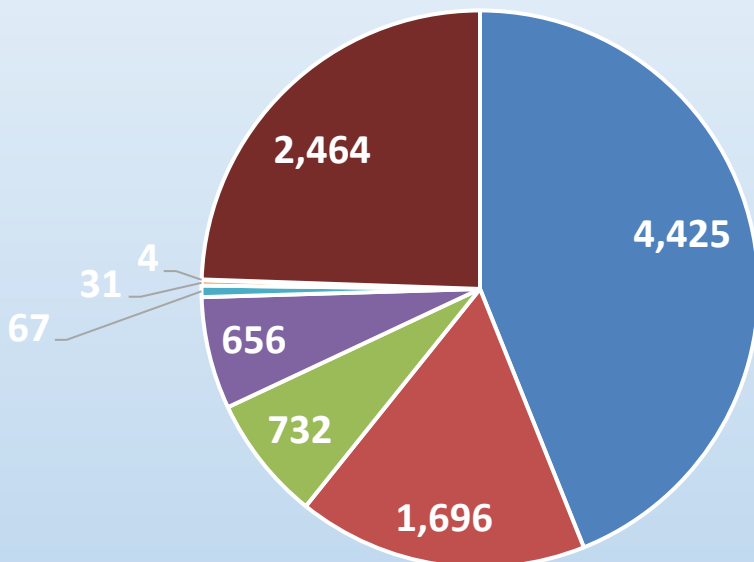


MONTEREY COUNTY Job ADS By Locations

Jobs EQ August 15, 2021 – September 14, 2021



Job Types Total Ads



- Full-Time
- Part-Time
- Temporary (unspecified)
- Permanent
- Temporary (short-term)
- Temp-to-Hire
- Temporary (long-term)
- Unspecified/other

Top Soft Skills

Communication (Verbal and written skills)

Customer Service

Cooperative/Team Player

Adaptability/Flexibility/Tolerance of Change and Uncertainty

Self-Motivated/Ability to Work Independently/Self Leadership

Organization

Detail Oriented/Meticulous

Ability to Work in a Fast Paced Environment

California's Labor Day lament: A shortage of workers

BY [DAN WALTERS](#) SEPTEMBER 6, 2021



As California attracts higher-educated workers, it is running out of blue-collar labor. Photo via iStock

IN SUMMARY

A shortage of blue-collar workers — many driven out by the state's high housing costs — could wreak havoc on the state's economy.

An acquaintance had some good news to impart last week: Her son, who operates construction machinery, just got a raise from \$43 an hour to \$57. That sounded outlandishly high — the equivalent of well over \$100,000 a year — but the most recent [“prevailing wage” schedule](#) for Northern California public works projects confirms that \$50-plus per hour is commonplace. And that doesn't include more than \$30 per hour in fringe benefits.

It explains why government construction is costly in California, but also undermines the popular belief that one must have a college degree to get a well-paying job.

As well as marking the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of autumn, Labor Day honors the men and women who do the real physical work that society needs to function. They operate machinery, fix our cars and appliances, build our houses, cultivate and deliver our food and do hundreds of other vital tasks.

As I'm writing this column, I'm waiting for a plumber to clear a plugged-up drainage pipe, the kindred soul of the electrician who repaired a faulty circuit a couple of weeks ago. It's what happens when you live in a nearly 70-year-old home.

Oddly, although California has the nation's highest poverty rate and one of its highest unemployment rates, employers have hundreds of thousands of [jobs going unfilled](#) — from teachers, carpenters and auto mechanics to farm workers and even hamburger flippers. It's not uncommon for fast food chains to offer \$15 per hour, but still not get enough applicants.

The worker shortages indicate that the pandemic may have wrought at least a semi-permanent change in California's employment scene, and if it persists, it will have a negative impact on the state's economy.

In decades past, when California has experienced labor shortages, we could count on an inflow of workers from other states and nations to fill the gaps. But foreign migration has slowed to a trickle and California loses more people to other states than it gains.

The Public Policy Institute of California has [studied those trends](#) and found that those lacking college educations are most likely to leave the state while those with higher education degrees are more likely to come here from other states.

The exchange may help industries demanding higher education levels and paying high salaries, such as Silicon Valley, but it bodes ill for filling blue collar jobs and even professional positions that are not especially lucrative, such as teaching. Ironically, California's high housing costs drive away the very people we need to build more housing. The situation implies that California must do better in generating skilled workers within itself, rather than relying on migration, and there are some hopeful indications of that attitudinal change.

A recent announcement by Chaffey College, a community college in Fontana, is one such indication. It has received a [\\$2.9 million state grant](#) to build a new welding training facility that will double the number of trainees. Welders are much in demand and earn premium wages.

Last week, the Legislature passed a bill to promote blue-collar trades among high school students.

"We must ensure that trade apprenticeships are presented as an option," the author of the bill, Assemblymember James Ramos, a Highland Democrat, said. "These programs expand workforce opportunities for young people and create a pipeline of skilled employees receiving competitive wages."

The Chaffey grant and [Assembly Bill 643](#) are refreshing signs that the college-for-all mentality is finally giving way to the reality that we need to train more Californians to do our vital work.