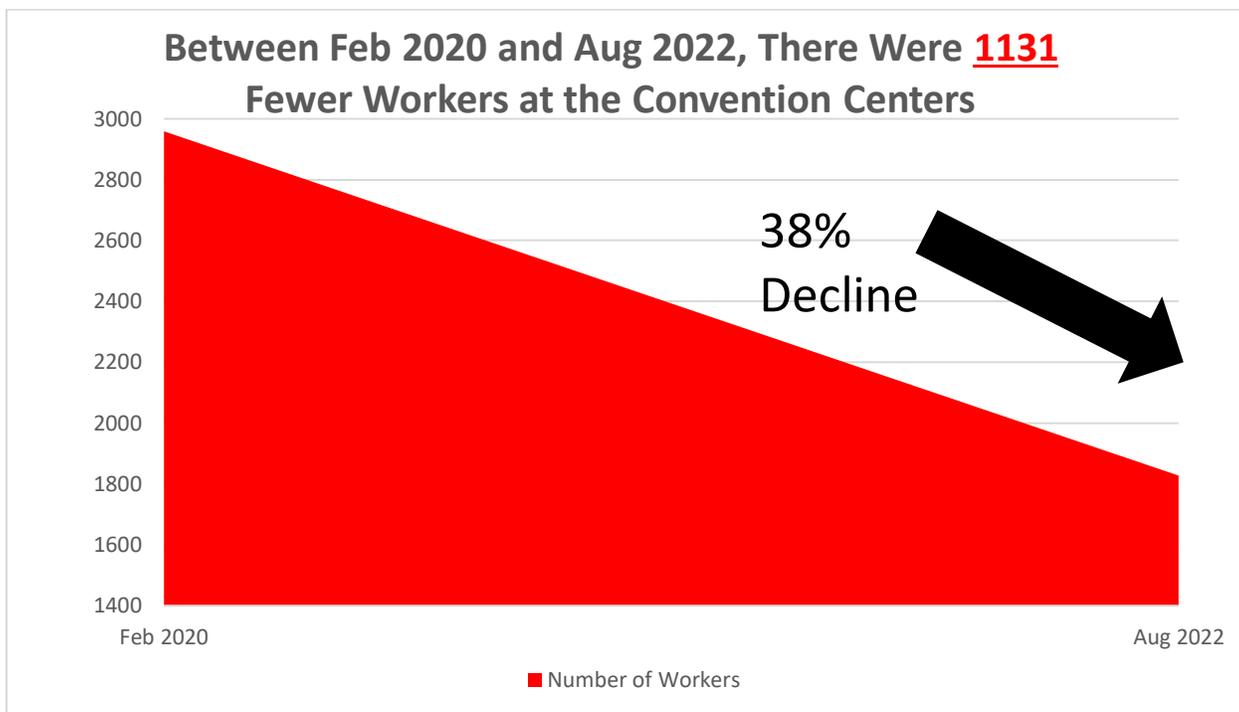


## UNITE HERE: Convention Center Facts

According to rankings by the industry journal Trade Show Executive in August 2022<sup>1</sup>, three of the five convention centers are among the largest by size in the country:

Convention Center Name	Trade Show Executive Ranking	Prime Exhibit Space (sf)
Las Vegas Convention Center	# 2	2,542,591
Orange County (FL) Convention Center	# 3	2,100,000
New Orleans Morial Convention Center	# 6 (tied)	1,100,000
Huntington Place (Detroit)	# 17	723,000
Sacramento Convention Center	(unranked)	160,000 <sup>2</sup>

Across the five convention centers (based on a comparison of the lists of workers provided by Sodexo for each location), 2959 workers were employed by Sodexo before the pandemic in February 2020. By August 2022, there were only 1828 workers employed by Sodexo at the convention centers – a reduction of 38%. Black workers were more likely not to keep their jobs than white workers (57% of black workers did not keep their jobs, compared to 51% of white workers).



	Detroit	Las Vegas	New Orleans	Orange County (FL)	Sacramento
<b>Feb 2020 workforce</b>	294	1438	186	928	113
<b>Feb 2020 workers no longer employed as of Aug 2022</b>	149 (50%)	980 (68%)	117 (62%)	271 (29%)	45 (39%)
<b>Aug 2022 workforce</b>	185	631	92	810	110
<b>Workforce reduction, Feb 2020 – Aug 2022</b>	109 (37%)	807 (56%)	94 (50%)	118 (12%)	3 (2%)

## Statistics reported by convention centers indicate a recovery to 2019 business

- The Las Vegas Convention Center reported more conventions and greater revenue from facilities usage in FY2022 than in FY2019.<sup>3</sup>
- As of August, the Orange County Convention Center reported over 1 million attendees for the year - compared to 1.25 million in all of 2019.<sup>4</sup>

### Convention industry analysts see recovery in the next year

- 3Q22 meetings recovery forecast by Knowland, a leading provider of data-as-a-service insights on meetings and events for hospitality, stated that "Meeting levels will recover to 106.4 percent of 2019 levels in 2023 and 129.2 percent in 2024."<sup>5</sup>

### States and cities are betting that business will come back

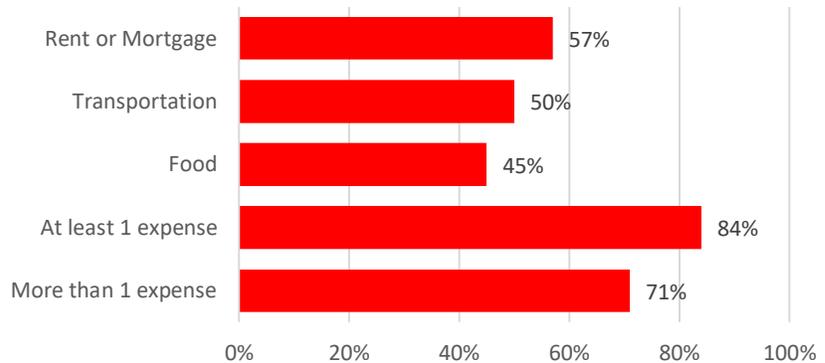
- At least 35 projects to improve meetings and convention facilities were underway as of September 2022, according to *Bloomberg*.<sup>6</sup>
- New Orleans has resumed plans for a convention center hotel which were shelved at the beginning of the pandemic.<sup>7</sup>

## Convention Center Workers Reported Trouble Covering Expenses, Taking Care of Family

UNITE HERE surveyed Sodexo workers at the Las Vegas, Detroit, and Sacramento convention centers between July and October 2022, and got responses from 77 Las Vegas workers (43% of 179 workers, excluding on-call banquet servers who are less likely to be called to work), 59 Detroit workers (31% of 185 workers on the bargaining unit list provided by the company), and 18 Sacramento workers (21% of 85 workers, excluding on-call banquet servers who are less likely to be called to work).

- 42% of surveyed workers reported having children under 18 at home.
- 44% of workers with children (29 out of 65) reported having missed a school related event because they did not want to miss work or could not get off from work.
- 21% of workers reported that they had been unable to schedule a medical appointment for themselves or a child because they could not get time off or because they did not want to take time off.

### Of convention center workers surveyed by UNITE HERE in Las Vegas, Detroit, and Sacramento, the following had trouble covering expenses:



<sup>1</sup> Trade Show Executive, August 2022 edition, pgs. 20-22. <https://online.fliphtml5.com/brun/htbq/#p=20>

<sup>2</sup> <https://safecreditunionconventioncenter.com/>

<sup>3</sup> Page 166:

[https://assets.simpleviewcms.com/simpleview/image/upload/v1/clients/lasvegas/Posted\\_Agenda\\_Book\\_Optimized\\_November\\_8\\_2022\\_BOD\\_088\\_c5f7e-66bb-4873-b04d-3372976832dc.pdf](https://assets.simpleviewcms.com/simpleview/image/upload/v1/clients/lasvegas/Posted_Agenda_Book_Optimized_November_8_2022_BOD_088_c5f7e-66bb-4873-b04d-3372976832dc.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://visitorlando.widen.net/s/6r6p6rgww5/res-aug22-market-indicators>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.knowland.com/Resources/meetings-recovery-forecast/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-09-12/us-convention-center-business-further-bounces-back-from-pandemic&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>

<sup>7</sup> <https://neworleanscitybusiness.com/blog/2022/09/12/convention-center-hotel-discussions-to-resume/>