# Status of the Re-Opening of the San Francisco Economy: April 2022



#### **CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

Office of the Controller

Office of Economic Analysis

April 28, 2022

## **Highlights of the April Report**

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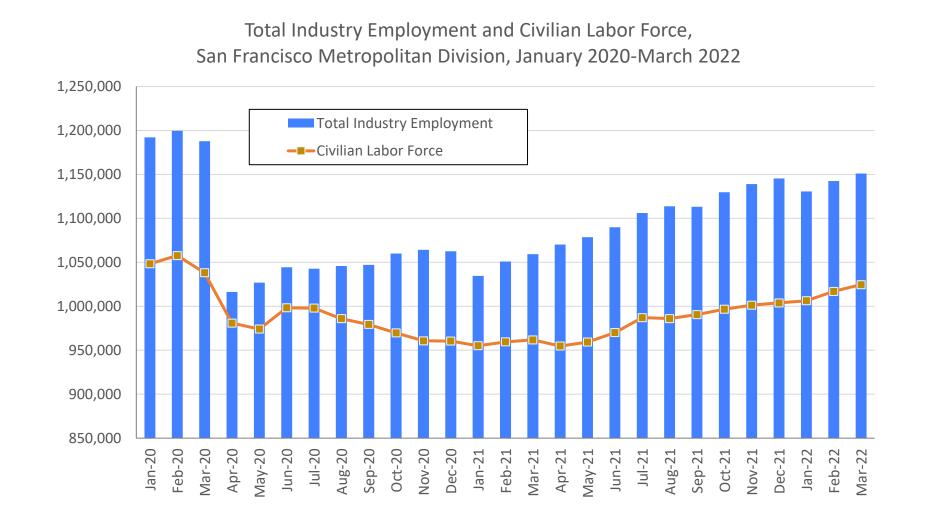
- As San Francisco's COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, the San Francisco Controller's Office has been tracking the pace of the city's recovery with monthly reports on a variety of economic indicators.
- Many local economic indicators reached pandemic-era highs in March, as the city continues its slow recovery. Industry employment and employed residents both reached levels not seen since early 2020, and the unemployment rate is nearing pre-pandemic levels.
- Office attendance improved in April, with San Francisco now on par with New York and above San Jose, though still at only 35% of 2019 attendance levels.
- Elevated office vacancy remains an issue, as Q1 data shows only a mild improvement, with little movement on asking rents.
- In housing, condo and single-family home prices in San Francisco have begun to grow at rates approaching the state-wide average, for the first time since the pandemic began. However, apartment rents remain relatively flat, and still 15% below pre-pandemic levels.

### **List of Economic Indicators**

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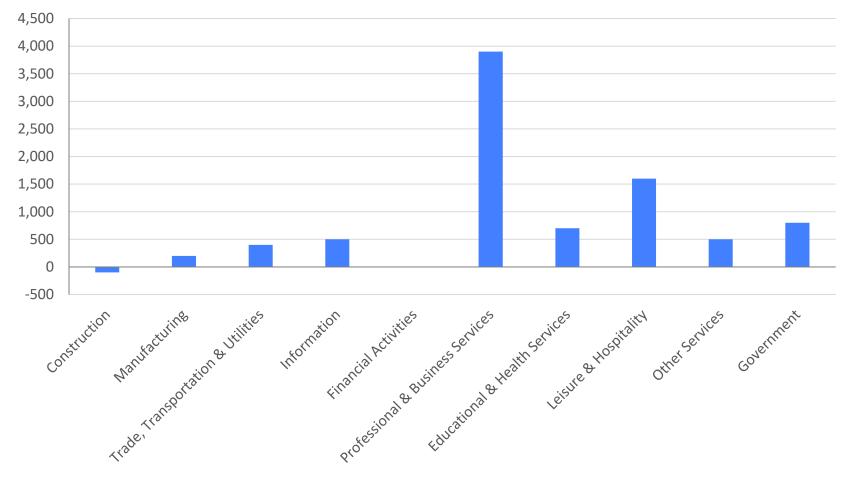
- 1. Industry Employment and Civilian Labor Force
- 2. Employment Change by Industry Sector
- 3. Unemployment Rate and Employed Residents in San Francisco
- 4. Time Spent Outside of the Home
- 5. Time Spent at Workplace
- 6. Office Attendance
- 7. Office Vacancy
- 8. Small Business Sentiment: Expected Recovery Index
- 9. New Business Registration, Selected Sectors
- 10. Hotel Occupancy Rate and Average Daily Rate
- 11. Hotel Revenue Available per Room Night: Selected Cities Comparison
- 12. Domestic Enplanements: Selected Cities Comparison
- 13. International Enplanements: Selected Cities Comparison
- 14. Bay Bridge and Golden Bridge Traffic
- 15. BART Exits at Downtown SF Stations
- 16. System-wide BART Ridership
- 17. Average Asking Rents for Apartments
- 18. Single Family Home and Condo Prices
- 19. Building Permits for Housing

#### **Employment and Labor Force Highest Since 2020**



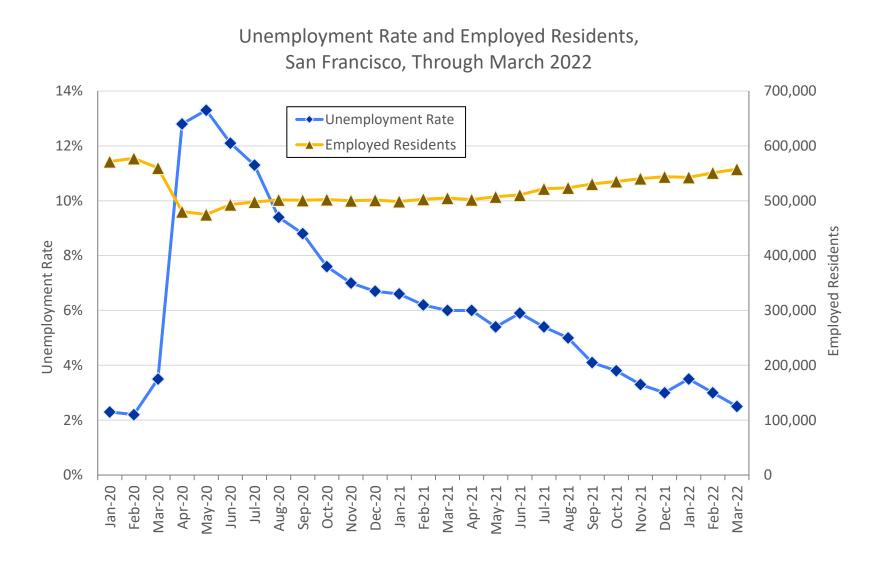
#### **Professional & Business Services Led Job Growth in March**

Employment Growth by Industry Sector, San Francisco Metro Division, February-March 2022

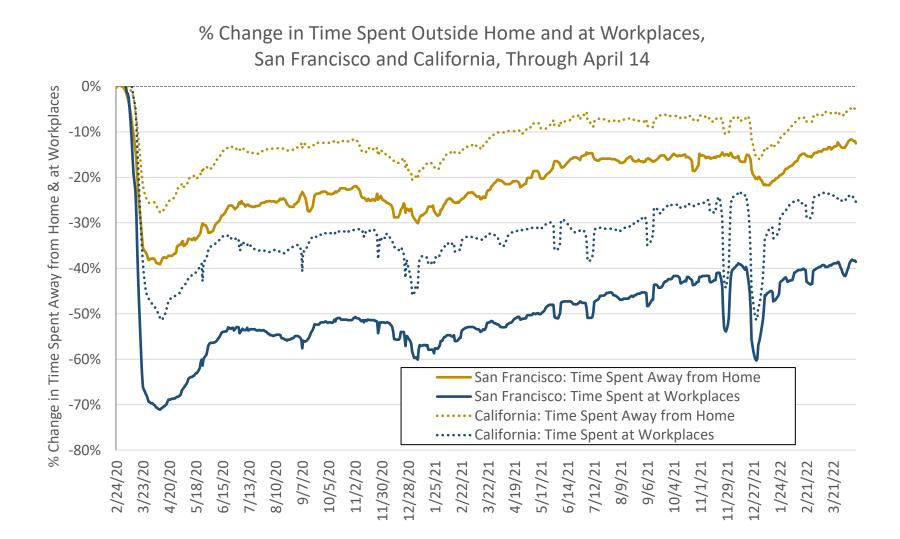


Source: EDD

#### Jobless Rate Fell to 2.5%; Still 20k Fewer Employed Residents

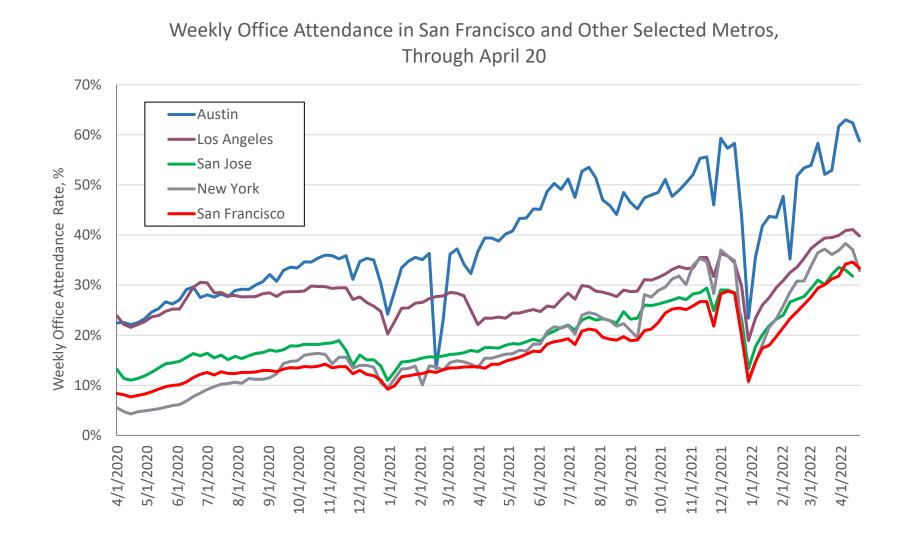


#### **Recovery of Local Mobility Has Been Slower than Local Jobs**



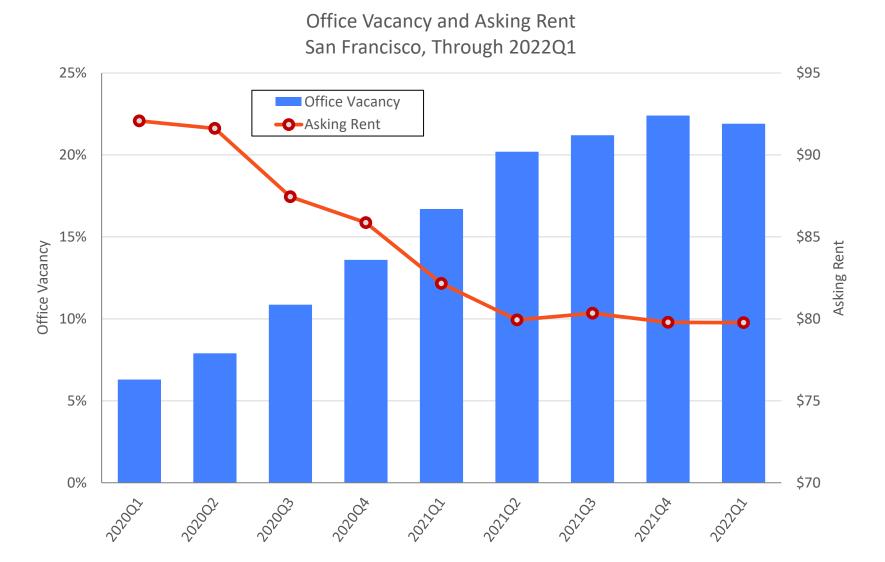
Source: Google Mobility, Opportunity Insights, <u>https://tracktherecovery.org</u> <u>https://opportunityinsights.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/tracker\_paper.pdf</u>

#### SF Office Attendance Now Tied With NY; Above San Jose



#### Little Movement in Office Vacancy or Rent in Q1

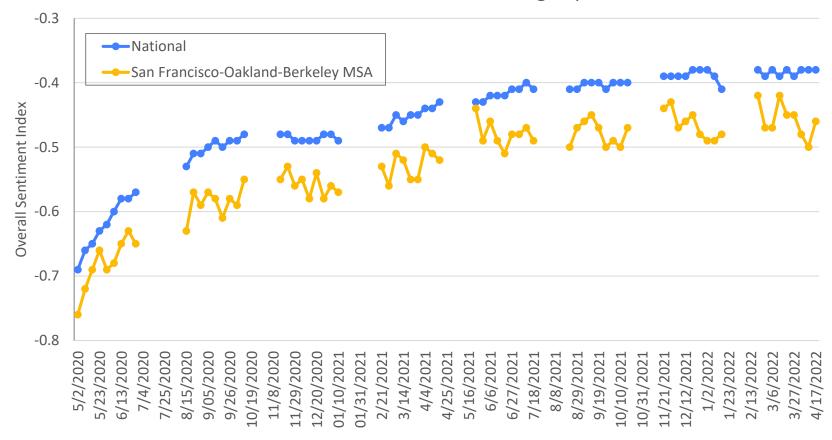
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Source: Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL)

#### **Small Business Sentiment Remains Steady**

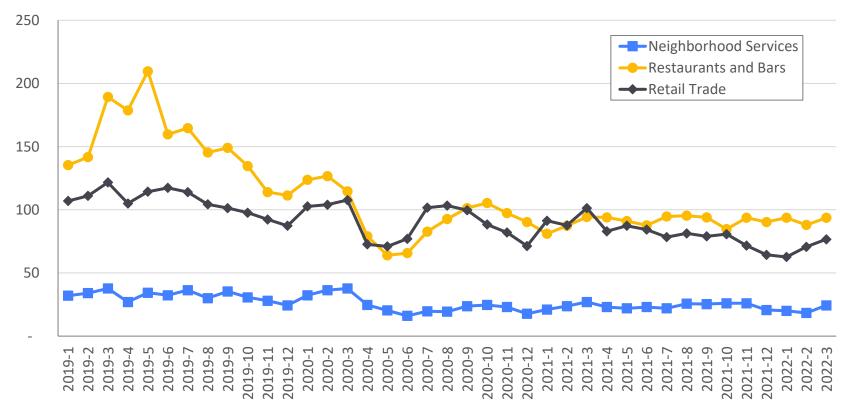
Overall Sentiment Index (OSI), Census Small Business Pulse Survey: National and San Francisco MSA, Through April 17



Source: Small Business Pulse Survey, US Census Bureau. The OSI assesses the overall average effect of the pandemic on small businesses. It ranges from -1 (maximum negative sentiment) to +1 (maximum positive sentiment).

#### **Continuing Slow Growth in New Business Formation**

New Business Locations in San Francisco, 3-month Moving Average, Selected Industries: January 2019 - March 2022

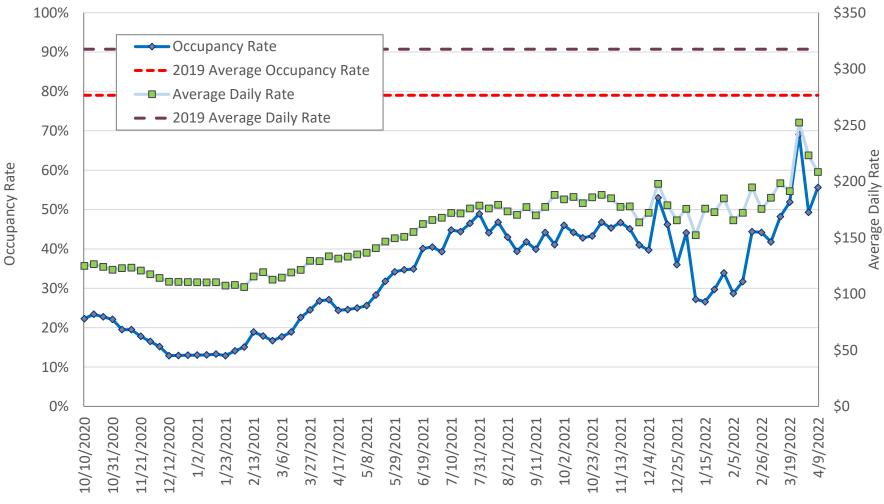


Source: Treasurer & Tax Collector, City and County of San Francisco

Note: "Restaurants and Bars" is equivalent to the NAICS Sector 722, "Food Services and Drinking Places". "Neighborhood Services" is equivalent to the NAICS sector 81, "Other Services (except Public Administration)".

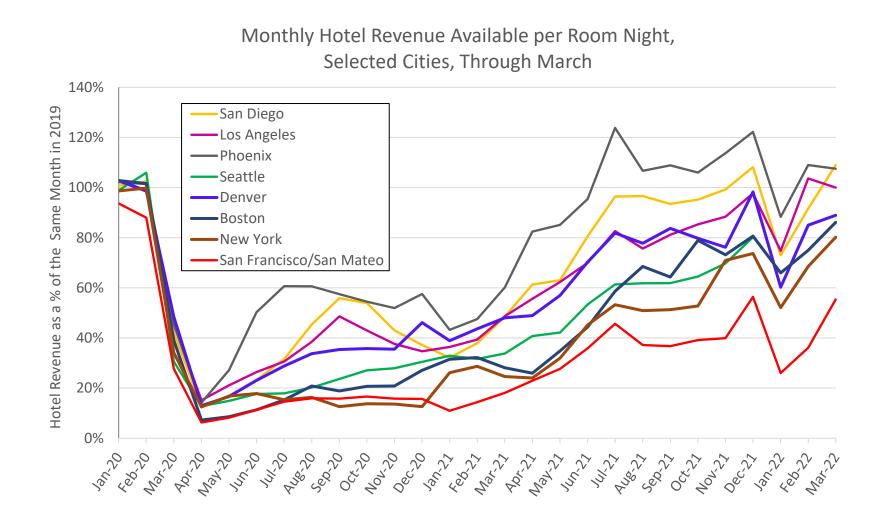
#### **Volatile Hotel Market Trending Upwards**

Weekly San Francisco Hotel Occupancy Rate and Average Daily Room Rate, **Through April 9** 



Source: STR

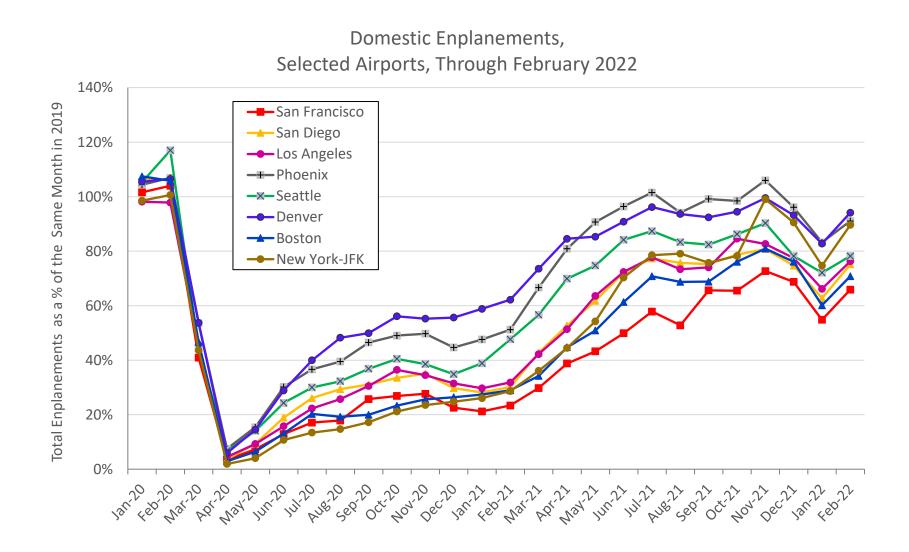
#### March Hotel Revenue Data Shows SF Rising, But Still Trailing



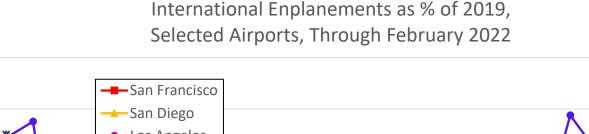
Source: STR. All the hotel rooms in a city are considered, whether they are open or closed.

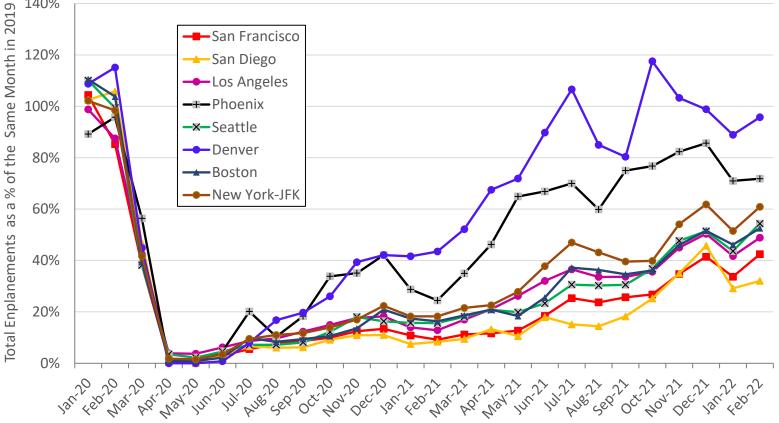
#### February Data Shows Domestic Air Travel Recovery...





#### ...And SF Keeping Pace in International Travel As Well

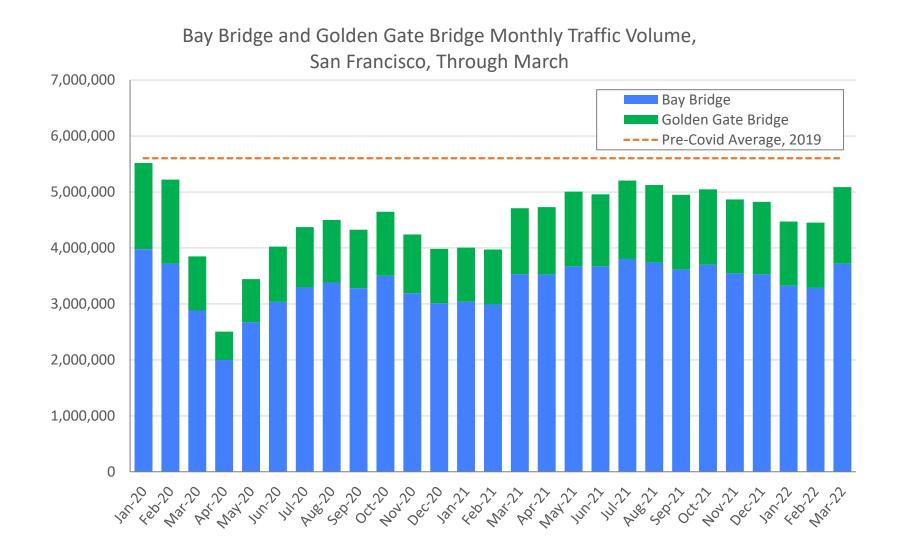




Source: Individual airports

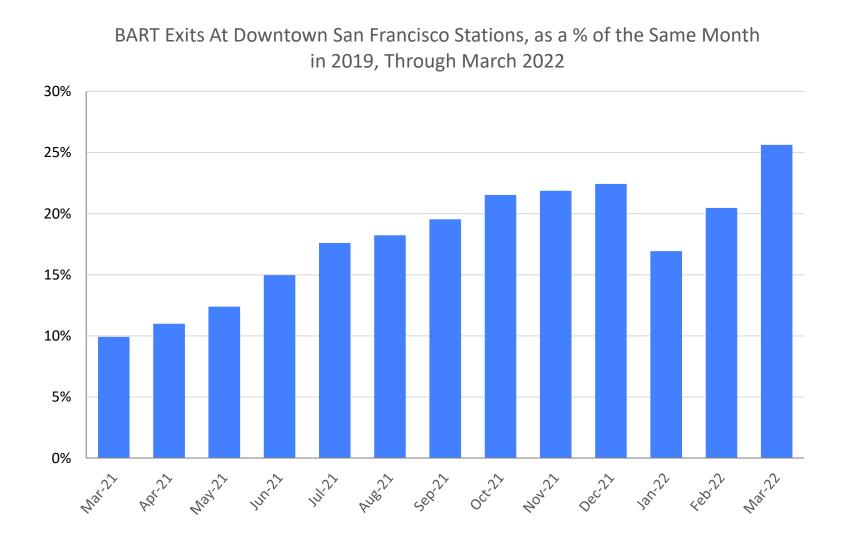
140%

#### Bridge Traffic Returned to 90% of Normal in March

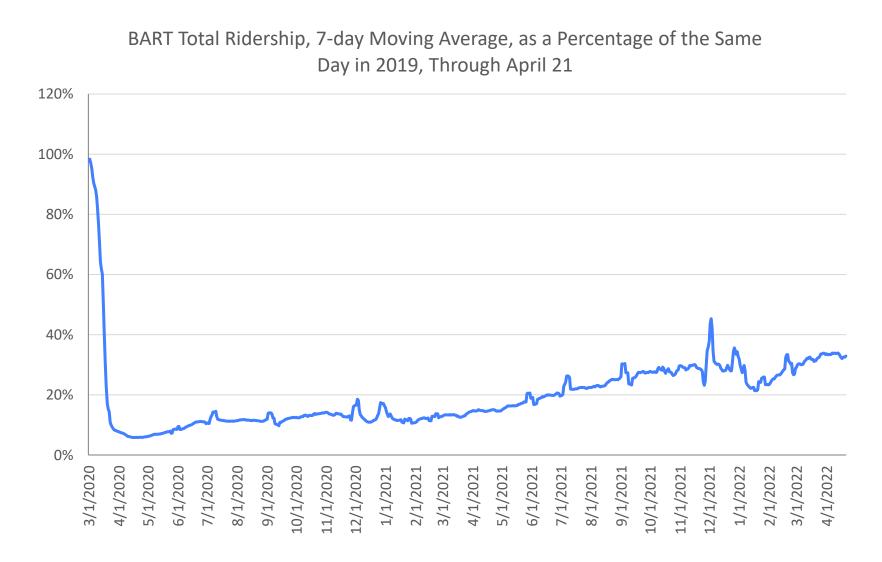


Source: Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA), Golden Gate Bridge Highway & Transportation District. Includes westbound Bay Bridge traffic and southbound Golden Gate Bridge traffic.

#### BART Was Also Up in March, to 25% of Normal in Downtown



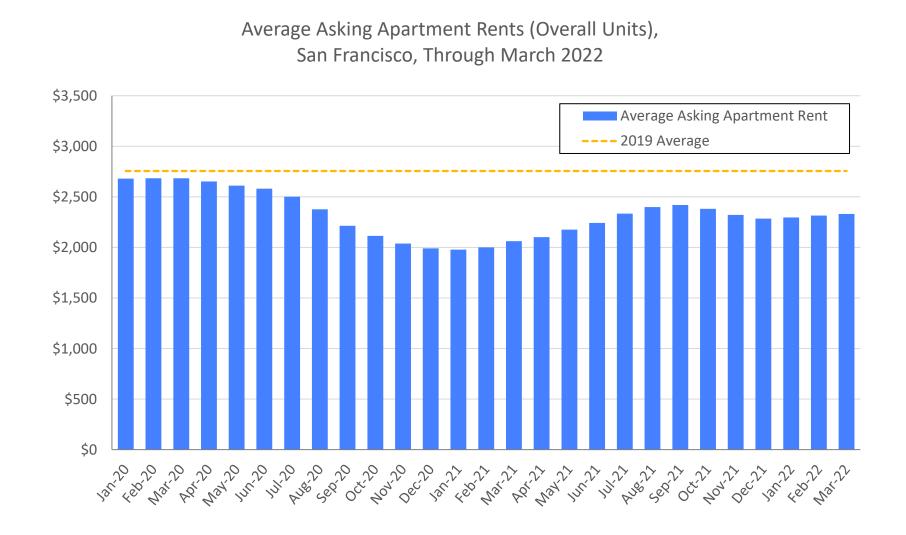
#### ...But System-Wide BART Ridership Has Been Flat in April



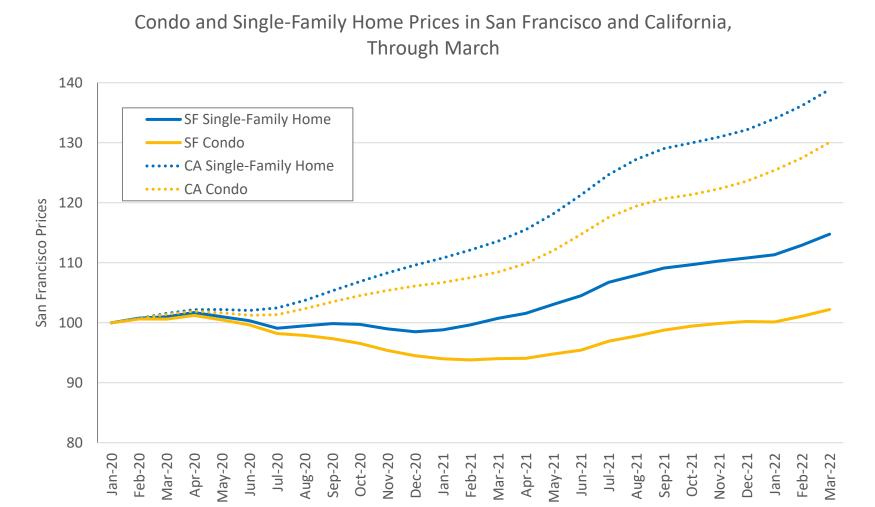
Source: BART

#### Little Movement in Apartment Asking Rents in March

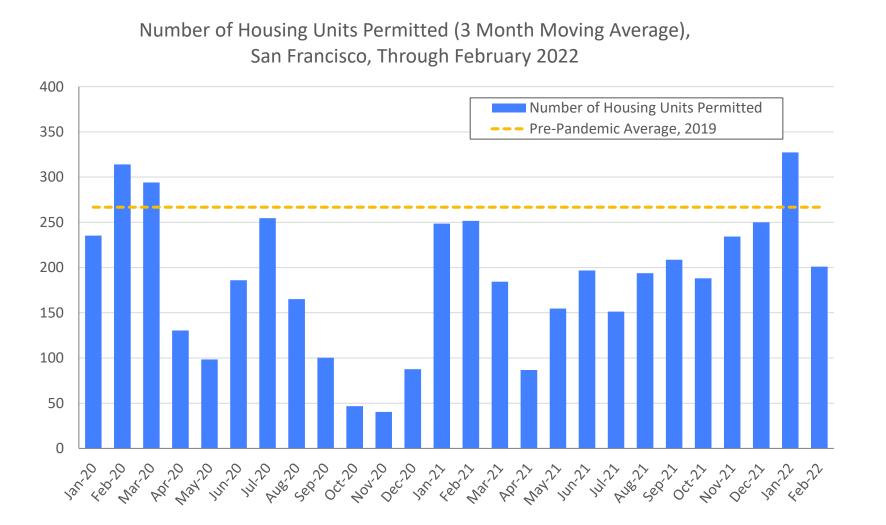
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#### **Local Housing Prices Accelerating in 2022**



### **Choppy Building Permits Data Showing a Drop in February**



Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Ted Egan, Ph.D., Chief Economist

ted.egan@sfgov.org

Asim Khan, Ph.D., Senior Economist <u>asim.khan@sfgov.org</u>