

Ophthalmic Medical Technicians

Labor Market Analysis: San Diego County

November 2018

Summary

According to available labor market information, there is a small demand for *Ophthalmic Medical Technicians*. *Ophthalmic Medical Technicians* has a labor market demand of 38 annual job openings, which is less than the average occupation. The average regional demand for an occupation is 276 annual job openings. With only one related training program found in California, the San Diego region could benefit from a small cohort program for Optical Technology (121900).

The following list summarizes findings from the labor market analysis for *Ophthalmic Medical Technicians*:

- Between 2017 and 2022, *Ophthalmic Medical Technicians* are projected to increase by 49 jobs or 14 percent.
- Employers in San Diego County will need to hire 38 workers annually to fill new jobs and backfill jobs due to attrition such as retirement or turnover.
- Between 2010 and 2017, there was an average of 53 online job postings per year for *Ophthalmic Medical Technicians* between 2010 and 2017 in San Diego County.
- *Ophthalmic Medical Technicians* earn median hourly earnings of \$21.52; this is more than the Self-Sufficiency Standard for a single adult in San Diego County, which is \$15.99 per hour.
- There is one TOP code associated with this occupation: Optical Technology (121900). There are two CIP codes associated with this occupation: 51.1801– Opticianry/Ophthalmic Dispensing Optician and 51.1802 - Optometric Technician/Assistant.
- According to TOP and CIP data, no colleges supply the region with awards for this occupation. According to the Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California (USC), USC has an Ophthalmic Technician Education Program (OTEP), but no awards have been reported. The OTEP at USC is one of 14 programs in the nation and the only one in California.
- Comparing labor demand (annual openings) with labor supply suggests that there is a supply gap for this occupation in San Diego County, with 38 annual openings and no awards. Comparatively, there are 348 annual openings in California and 47 awards.

- Between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017, the top five employers in San Diego County for this occupation were Scripps Health, Sharp Healthcare, University of San Diego Health System, University of California San Diego and Providence Health & Services.
- The typical entry-level education is a post-secondary non-degree award.

Introduction

This report provides labor market information in San Diego County for the following occupational code in the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)¹ system:

Ophthalmic Medical Technicians (SOC 29-2057): Assist ophthalmologists by performing ophthalmic clinical functions. May administer eye exams, administer eye medications, and instruct the patient in care and use of corrective lenses. Sample reported job titles include:

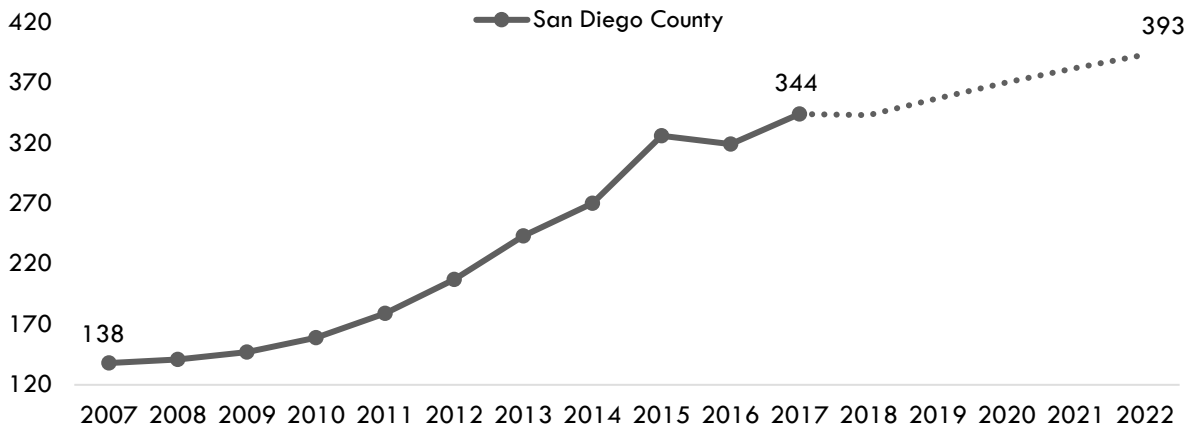
- | | |
|---|--|
| • Ophthalmic Assistant | • Certified Ophthalmic Assistant |
| • Ophthalmic Medical Assistant | • Surgical Coordinator |
| • Certified Ophthalmic Technician | • Certified Ophthalmic Technician-Surgical Assistant |
| • Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technician | |

Projected Occupational Demand

Between 2017 and 2022, *Ophthalmic Medical Technicians* are projected to increase by 49 jobs or 14 percent (Exhibit 1). Employers in San Diego County will need to hire 38 workers annually to fill new jobs and backfill jobs due to attrition such as retirement or turnover.

¹ The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is used by federal statistical agencies to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating or disseminating data. bls.gov/soc.

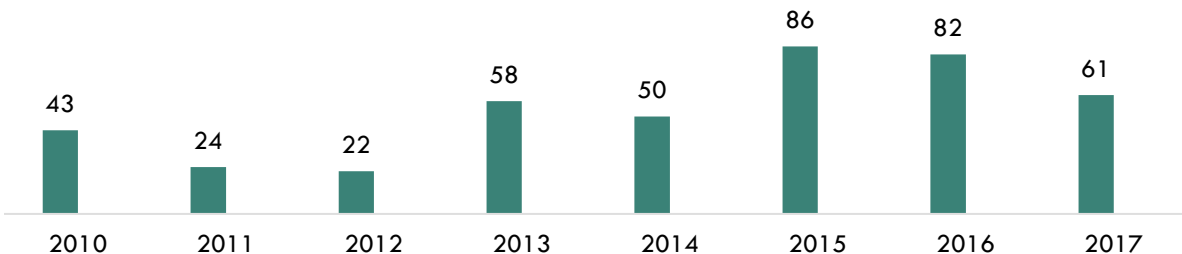
Exhibit 1: Number of Jobs for Ophthalmic Medical Technicians (2007-2022)²



Online Job Postings

Between 2010 and 2017, there was an average of **53** online job postings per year for *Ophthalmic Medical Technicians* between 2010 and 2017 in San Diego County (Exhibit 2).

Exhibit 2: Number of Online Job Postings for Ophthalmic Medical Technicians in San Diego County (2010-2017)³



Earnings

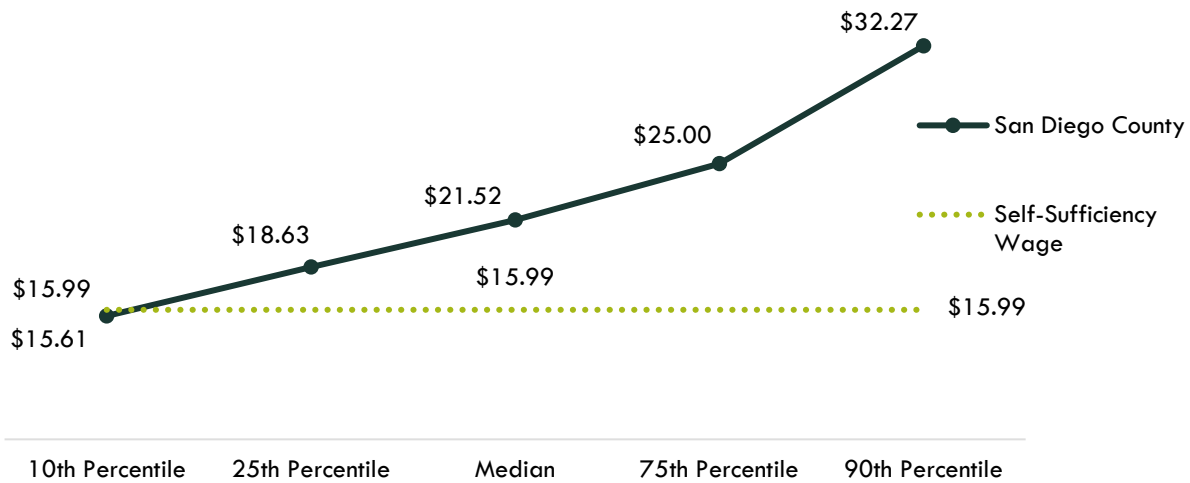
Ophthalmic Medical Technicians earn median hourly earnings of **\$21.52**; this is more than the Self-Sufficiency Standard for a single adult in San Diego County, which is **\$15.99** per hour (Exhibit 3).⁴

² Economic Modeling Specialists, Int'l. (EMSI). San Diego (6073). 2018.04 Class of Worker. QCEW + Non-QCEW + Self-Employed. 2007-2022.

³ Labor Insight Jobs. Burning Glass Technologies. San Diego, CA. Full years 2010-2017.

⁴ The self-sufficient wage in San Diego for one adult is \$15.99. insightcced.org/2018-self-sufficiency-standard.

Exhibit 3: Hourly Earnings for Ophthalmic Medical Technicians in San Diego County⁵



Educational Supply

Educational supply for an occupation can be estimated by analyzing the number of awards in related Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) or Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes.⁶ There is **one** TOP code associated with this occupation: Optical Technology (121900). There are **two** CIP codes associated with this occupation: 51.1801– Opticianry/Ophthalmic Dispensing Optician and 51.1802 - Optometric Technician/Assistant (Exhibit 4).

Exhibit 4: Related TOP and CIP Codes in San Diego County

SOC 29-2057: Ophthalmic Medical Technicians

TOP 121900: Optical Technology

CIP 51.1801: Opticianry/Ophthalmic Dispensing Optician

CIP 51.1802: Optometric Technician/Assistant

According to TOP and CIP data, no colleges supply the region with awards for this occupation. According to the Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California (USC), USC has an Ophthalmic

⁵ EMSI. San Diego (6073). 2018.04 Class of Worker. QCEW + Non-QCEW + Self-Employed. 2017-2022.

⁶ TOP data comes from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart (datamart.cccco.edu) and CIP data comes from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data).

Technician Education Program (OTEP), but no awards have been reported.⁷ The OTEP at USC is one of 14 programs in the nation and the only one in California (Exhibit 5).

**Exhibit 5: Number of Awards (Certificates and Degrees) Conferred by Postsecondary Institutions
(Program Year 2013-14 through PY2016-17 Average)**

TOP6 or CIP	TOP6 or CIP Title	3-Yr Annual Average CC Awards (PY14-15 to PY16-17)	Other Educational Institutions 3-Yr Annual Average Awards (PY13-14 to PY15-16)	3-Yr Total Average Supply (PY13-14 to PY16-17)
121900	Optical Technology	0	0	0
51.1801	Opticianry/Ophthalmic Dispensing Optician	0	0	0
51.1802	Optometric Technician/Assistant	0	0	0
			Total	0

Demand vs. Supply

Comparing labor demand (annual openings) with labor supply⁸ suggests that there is a **supply gap** for this occupation in San Diego County, with **38** annual openings and **no** awards. Comparatively, there are **348** annual openings in California and **47** awards⁹ (Exhibit 6).

Exhibit 6: Labor Demand (Annual Openings) Compared to Labor Supply (Average Annual Awards)

Community Colleges and Other Postsecondary Educational Institutions	Demand (Annual Openings)	Supply (Total Annual Average Supply)	Supply Gap or Oversupply
San Diego	38	0	38
California	348	47	301

Please note: This is a basic analysis of supply and demand of labor. This data should be used to discuss the potential gaps or oversupply of workers; however, it should not be the only basis for determining

⁷ Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California Ophthalmic Technician Education program. keck.usc.edu/new-training-course-offered-for-aspiring-ophthalmic-technicians.

⁸ Labor supply can be found in the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart.

⁹ EMSI. California (6). 2018.04 Class of Worker. QCEW + Non-QCEW + Self-Employed. 2017-2022.

whether or not a program should be developed. Additionally, the data does not include workers who are currently in the labor force who could fill these positions or workers who are not captured by publicly available data.

Student Outcomes

Based on the information available in the CTE LaunchBoard, students who took courses in the related TOP codes exhibited the following outcomes (Exhibit 7).

**Exhibit 7: Strong Workforce Program Metrics for TOP 121900: Optical Technology
San Diego-Imperial Region vs. California (PY2015-16)**

Metric	San Diego-Imperial	California
Number of course enrollments ¹⁰	N/A	N/A
Completed 12+ CTE Units in One Year ¹¹	N/A	N/A
Completed 48+ CTE Contact Hours in One Year ¹²	N/A	N/A
Number of students who got a degree or certificate ¹³	N/A	N/A
Number of students who transferred ¹⁴	N/A	N/A
Employed in the second fiscal quarter after exit ¹⁵	N/A	N/A
Employed in the fourth fiscal quarter after exit ¹⁶	N/A	N/A
Job closely related to field of study ¹⁷	N/A	N/A
Median earnings in the second fiscal quarter after exit ¹⁸	N/A	N/A
Median change in earnings ¹⁹	N/A	N/A
Attained a living wage ²⁰	N/A	N/A

¹⁰ The number of enrollments in courses assigned to the TOP code in the selected year.

¹¹ The number of students who completed 12 or more credit CTE units.

¹² The number of students who completed 48 or more noncredit CTE instructional contact hours.

¹³ The number of unduplicated students who earned a locally-issued certificate, Chancellor's Office approved certificate, associate degree, and/or California Community Colleges bachelor's degree in the selected TOP code.

¹⁴ Students who took non-introductory courses or completed a California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office award in the selected TOP code in selected year who subsequently enrolled for the first time in a four-year institution the following year.

¹⁵ Among all exiters with a valid SSN, the percentage who were employed two quarters after exiting California Community Colleges.

¹⁶ Among exiting students with a valid SSN, the percentage who were employed four quarters after exiting California Community Colleges.

¹⁷ Among students who responded to the CTEOS, the percentage reporting employment in the same or similar field as their program of study.

¹⁸ Among exiting students, the median second-quarter earnings one year after the year in which they exited California Community Colleges.

¹⁹ Among exiting students with a valid SSN, the percentage change in earnings one year before and one year after exiting California Community Colleges.

²⁰ Among completers and skills builders who exited, the proportion of students who attained a living wage.

Top Employers and Work Locations

Between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017, the top five employers in San Diego County for this occupation were Scripps Health, Sharp Healthcare, University of San Diego Health System, University of California San Diego and Providence Health & Services (Exhibit 8).

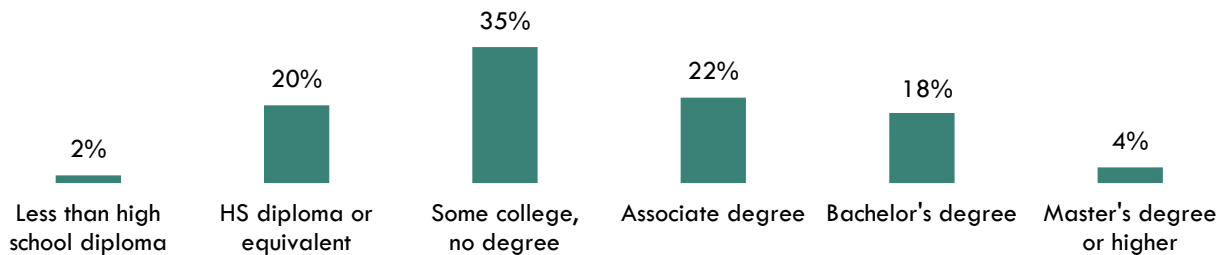
Exhibit 8: Top Employers in San Diego County for Ophthalmic Medical Technicians²¹

Top Employers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripps Health • Sharp Healthcare • University of California San Diego Health System • University of California San Diego • Providence Health & Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rady Children's Hospital • General Dynamics • Kaiser Permanente • Sutter Health • National Vision Incorporated

Skills, Education, and Certifications

Exhibit 9 indicates the educational attainment for the occupation found currently in the national labor force. There is no typical on-the-job training for this profession. The typical entry-level education is a [post-secondary non-degree award](#).²²

Exhibit 9: National Educational Attainment of Ophthalmic Medical Technicians²³



*May not add to 100% due to rounding

Exhibit 10 lists the top specialized, soft and software skills that appeared in online job postings for the occupation between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2017.

²¹ Labor Insight Jobs. Burning Glass Technologies. San Diego, CA. Full years 2015-2017.

²² EMSI. San Diego (6073). 2018.04 Class of Worker. QCEW + Non-QCEW + Self-Employed. 2017-2022.

²³ Bureau of Labor Statistics, Educational attainment for workers 25 years and older by detailed occupation. bls.gov/emp/ep_table_111.htm.

Exhibit 10: Top Skills for Ophthalmic Medical Technicians in San Diego County²⁴

Specialized Skills	Soft Skills	Software Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ophthalmology • Patient Care • Tonometry • Refraction • Scheduling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication Skills • Computer Literacy • Typing • Physical Abilities • English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Excel • Microsoft PowerPoint • Microsoft Word • Microsoft Access • ICD-10

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Important Disclaimers

All representations included in this report have been produced from primary research and/or secondary review of publicly and/or privately available data and/or research reports. This study examines the most recent data available at the time of the analysis; however, data sets are updated regularly and may not be consistent with previous reports. Efforts have been made to qualify and validate the accuracy of the data and the report findings; however, neither the Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE), COE host district, nor California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office are responsible for the applications or decisions made by individuals and/or organizations based on this study or its recommendations.

²⁴ Labor Insight Jobs. Burning Glass Technologies. San Diego, CA. Full years 2015-2017.