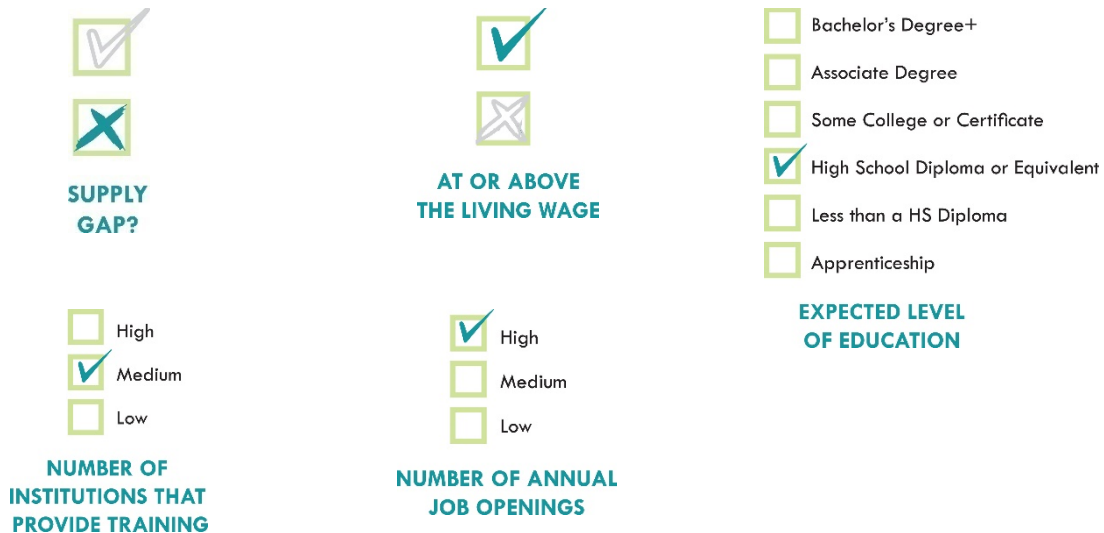


Pharmacy Technicians

Labor Market Analysis: Imperial County

September 2019

Summary



The brief provides labor market information about *Pharmacy Technicians* to assist the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges with program development, strategic planning, etc. According to available labor market information, *Pharmacy Technicians* have a labor market demand of 15 annual job openings, while average demand for an occupation in Imperial County is four annual job openings. One educational institution in Imperial County supplies awards for this occupation, suggesting that there is an oversupply. Comparatively, there are 3,570 annual openings in California and 294 awards. This occupation's entry-level wages are below the living wage; however, the median wages are above the living wage. According to the California Community Colleges' outcomes data, 38 percent of students who complete programs related to *Pharmacy Technicians* earned a living wage in California, compared to 58 percent of students who complete Career Education programs in general. Additionally, the typical entry-level education for *Pharmacy Technicians* is a high school diploma or equivalent.

Introduction

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

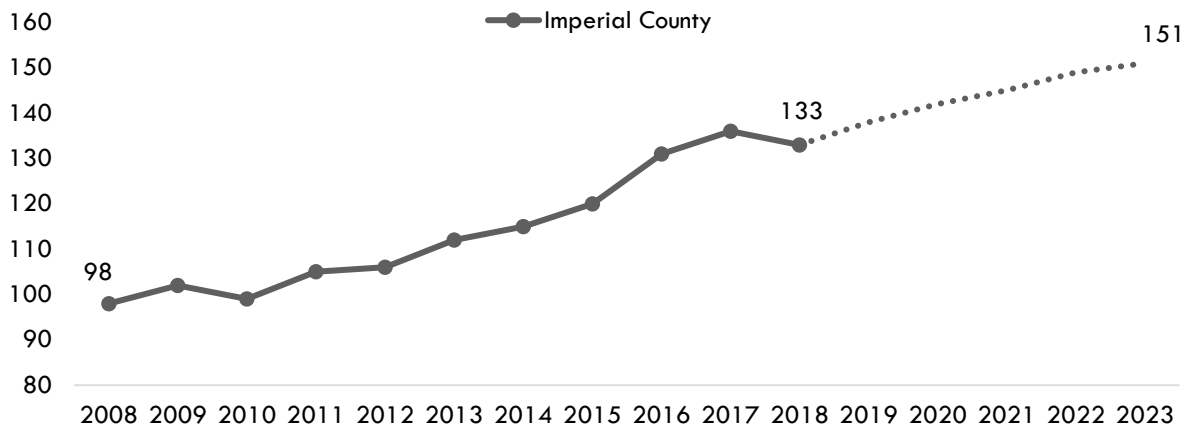
Pharmacy Technicians (SOC 29-2052): Prepare medications under the direction of a pharmacist. May measure, mix, count out, label, and record amounts and dosages of medications according to prescription orders. Sample reported job titles include:

- Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT)
- Technician, Inventory Specialist
- Technician
- Compounding Technician
- Billing and Quality Technician
- Accredited Pharmacy Technician

Projected Occupational Demand

Between 2018 and 2023, *Pharmacy Technicians* are projected to increase by 18 net jobs or 14 percent (Exhibit 1). Employers in Imperial County will need to hire 15 workers annually to fill new jobs and backfill jobs due to attrition caused by turnover and retirement, for example.

Exhibit 1: Number of Jobs for Pharmacy Technicians (2008-2023)²



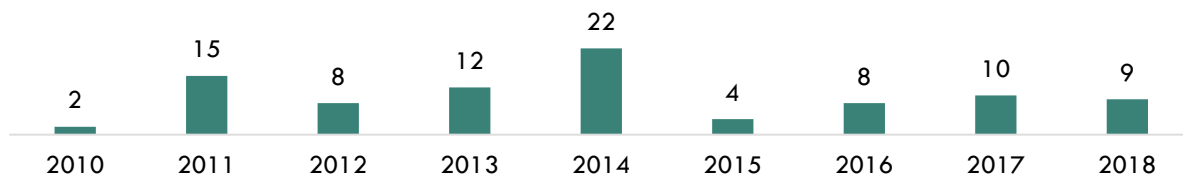
¹ The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is used by federal statistical agencies to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating or disseminating data. [bls.gov/soc](https://www.bls.gov/soc/).

² Emsi 2019.03; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

Online Job Postings

This report analyzes not only historical and projected (traditional LMI) data, but also recent data from online job postings (real-time LMI). Online job postings may provide additional insight about recent changes in the labor market demand that are not captured by historical data. Between 2010 and 2018, there was an average of 10 online job postings per year for *Pharmacy Technicians* in Imperial County (Exhibit 2).

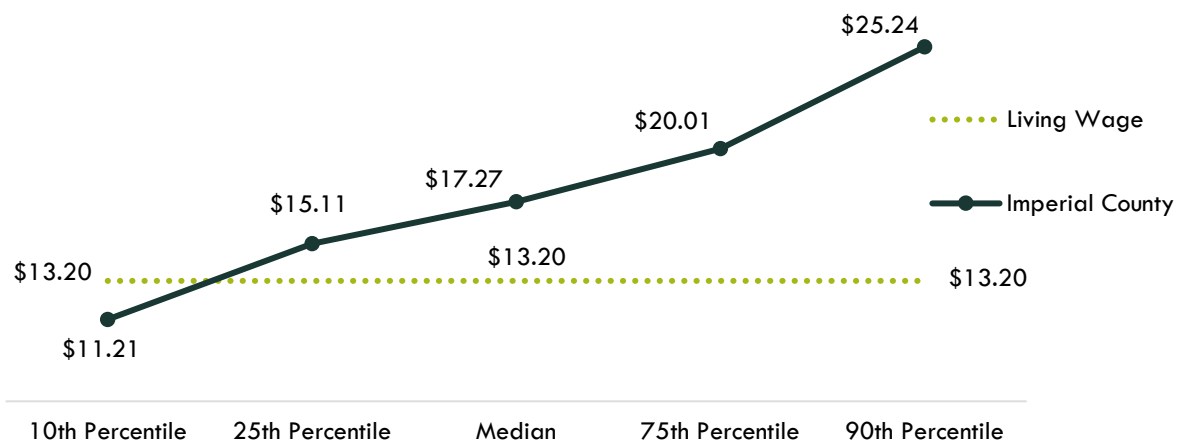
Exhibit 2: Number of Online Job Postings for Pharmacy Technicians in Imperial County (2010-2018)³



Earnings

Pharmacy Technicians receive median hourly earnings of \$17.27; this is more than the living wage for two adults and two children (school-age) in Imperial County, which is \$13.20 per hour (Exhibit 3).⁴

Exhibit 3: Hourly Earnings⁵ for Pharmacy Technicians in Imperial County⁶



³ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2010-2018.

⁴ "California Family Needs Calculator (formerly the Self-Sufficiency Standard)," Insight: Center for Community Economic Development, last updated 2018. insightccd.org/2018-self-sufficiency-standard.

⁵ 10th and 25th percentiles could be considered entry-level wages, and 75th and 90th percentiles could be considered experienced wages for individuals who may have been in the occupation longer, received more training than others, etc.

⁶ Emsi 2019.03; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

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.⁷ There is **one** TOP code and **two** CIP codes related to *Pharmacy Technicians* (Exhibit 4).

Exhibit 4: Related TOP and CIP Codes for Pharmacy Technicians

<i>Pharmacy Technicians</i>
TOP 122100: Pharmacy Technology
CIP 51.0000: Health Services/Allied Health/Health Sciences, General
CIP 51.0805: Pharmacy Technician/Assistant

According to TOP data, **one** educational institution supplies the region with awards for this occupation, **Imperial Valley College**. According to CIP data, **no** non-community college supplies the region with awards (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)
122100	Pharmacy Technology	29	0	29
	• Imperial Valley	29	0	
51.0000	Health Services/Allied Health/Health Sciences, General	0	0	0
51.0805	Pharmacy Technician/Assistant	0	0	0
			Total	29

⁷ 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).

Demand vs. Supply

Comparing labor demand (annual openings) with labor supply⁸ suggests that there is an **oversupply** for this occupation in Imperial County, with 15 annual openings and 29 awards. Comparatively, there are 3,570 annual openings in California and 294 awards⁹ (Exhibit 6).

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

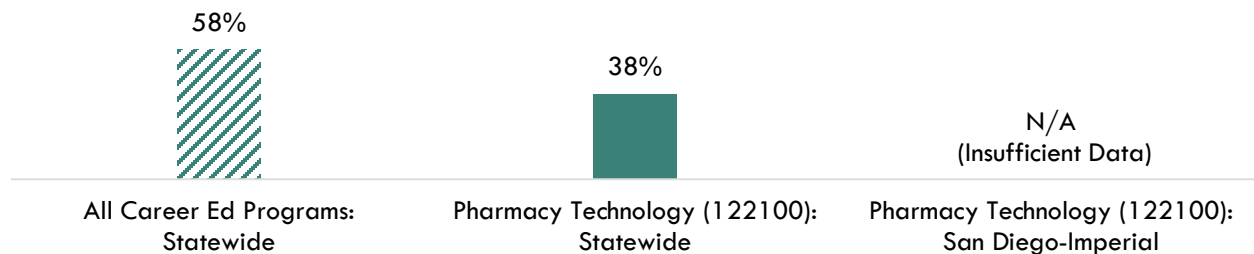
Community Colleges and Other Postsecondary Educational Institutions	Demand (Annual Openings)	Supply (Total Annual Average Supply)	Supply Gap or Oversupply
Imperial	15	29	14
California	3,570	294	3,276

Please note: This is a basic analysis of supply and demand of labor. The data does not include workers currently in the labor force who could fill these positions or workers who are not captured by publicly available data. This data should be used to discuss the potential gaps or oversupply of workers; however, it should not be the only basis for determining whether or not a program should be developed.

Student Outcomes and Regional Comparisons

According to the California Community Colleges LaunchBoard, 38 percent of students earned a living wage in the program related to *Pharmacy Technicians*, compared to 58 percent of students who earned a living wage in Career Education programs across the state (Exhibit 7a)."

Exhibit 7a: Proportion of Students Who Earned a Living Wage, PY2015-16¹⁰

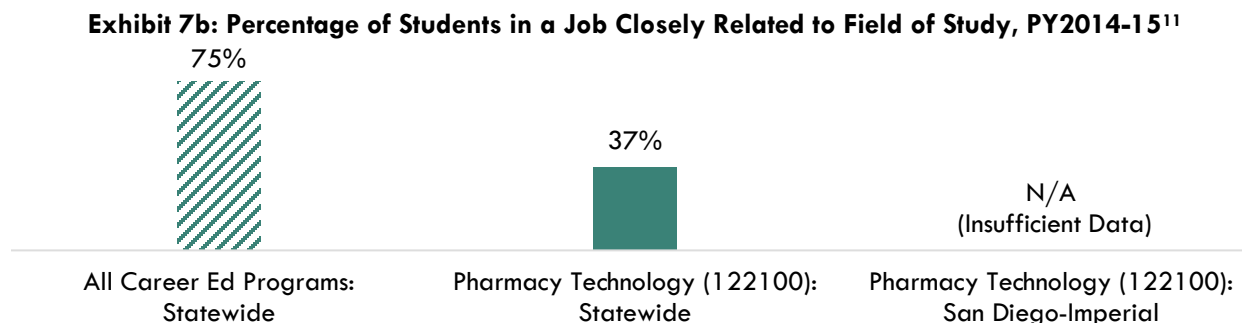


⁸ Labor supply can be found from two different sources: EMSI or the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart. EMSI uses CIP codes while MIS uses TOP codes. Different coding systems result in differences in the supply numbers.

⁹ "Supply and Demand," Centers of Excellence Student Outcomes, coecc.net/Supply-and-Demand.aspx.

¹⁰ Among completers and skills builders who exited, the proportion of students who attained a living wage.

According to the California Community Colleges LaunchBoard, 75 percent of students in Career Education statewide obtained a job closely related to their field of study compared to 37 percent of students from Pharmacy Technology (122100) across the state (Exhibit 7b).



Top Employers and Work Locations

Between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018, the top five employers in Imperial County for this occupation were [CVS Health](#), [El Centro Regional Medical Center](#), [Department of Health and Human Services](#), [Albertsons](#), and [Indian Health Service](#) (Exhibit 8).

Exhibit 8: Top Employers in Imperial County for *Pharmacy Technicians*¹²

Top Employers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVS Health • El Centro Regional Medical Center • Department of Health and Human Services • Albertsons • Indian Health Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vons Company Incorporated • Staff Today Inc.

Skills, Education, and Certifications

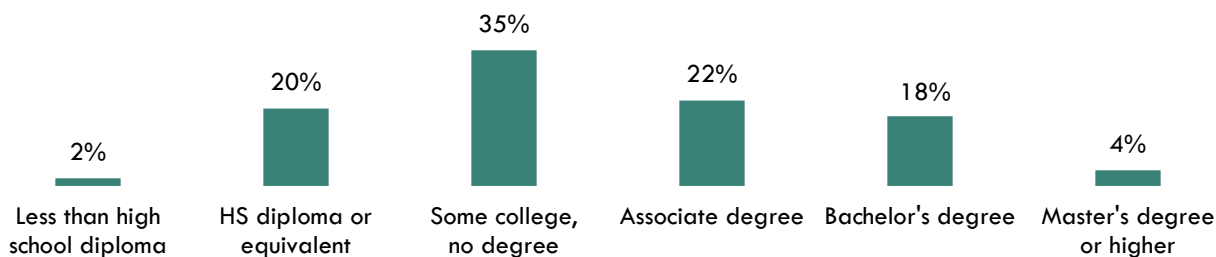
Exhibit 9 indicates the educational attainment for the occupation found currently in the national labor force. The typical training for this profession is [moderate-term on-the-job training](#). The typical entry-level education is a [high school diploma or equivalent](#).¹³

¹¹ Most recent year with available data is Program Year 2014-15. Percentage of Students in a Job Closely Related to Field of Study: Among students who responded to the CTEOS, the percentage reporting employment in the same or similar field as their program of study.

¹² Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2016-2018.

¹³ Emsi 2019.03; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

Exhibit 9: National Educational Attainment of Pharmacy Technicians¹⁴



*May not add to 100% due to rounding

Exhibit 10 lists the top specialized, soft, and software skills that appeared in online job postings between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018.

Exhibit 10: Top Skills for Pharmacy Technicians in Imperial County¹⁵

Specialized Skills	Soft Skills	Software Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail Industry Knowledge • Customer Contact • Insurance Knowledge • Legal Compliance • Customer Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typing • Written Communication • Communication Skills • Listening • Oral Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Excel

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¹⁴ "Educational Attainment for Workers 25 Years and Older by Detailed Occupation," Bureau of Labor Statistics, last modified October 18, 2018. bls.gov/emp/tables/educational-attainment.htm.

¹⁵ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2016-2018.

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.