

Project Management Occupations

Labor Market Analysis: San Diego County

April 2019

Summary

To determine labor market demand for *Project Management Occupations* that the community colleges could train for, this labor market analysis reviews online job postings data and makes recommendations based on top certifications, employers, job titles, and skills. According to available labor market information, the majority of project management job postings in San Diego County are for “Project Managers,” followed by “Project Coordinators,” “Project Specialists,” and “Assistant Project Managers.” If the community colleges were to provide training for *Project Managers*, training for the Project Management Professional (PMP) certification would benefit incumbent or current workers; PMP requires significant work experience and education before an individual could qualify to take the PMP certification examination. If the community colleges were to provide training for *Project Coordinators*, *Project Specialists*, and *Assistant Project Managers*, the labor market information suggests that a general “Project Management Certification” would suffice, but employers also preferred a “Project Management Professional (PMP)” certification. A few job postings listed “Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM)” as a desired certification, but the number of job postings was inconsequential compared to the number of job postings for “Project Management Certification” and “PMP.”

Introduction

In today’s economy, industries that were not traditionally project focused are increasingly relying on project managers, coordinators, specialists, and the like to manage complex projects. Project-related job growth in the United States is expected to increase from 6.7 million jobs in 2017 to 8.8 million jobs in 2027—a 31 percent increase.¹ According to Glassdoor, the median salary for *Project Managers* in San Diego is \$79,038.² However, level of experience, knowledge, and skills can affect this salary range. As a result, this labor market analysis reviews online jobs postings for *Project Management Occupations*, which

¹ “Project Management Job Growth and Talent Gap 2017-2027.” Project Management Institute, 2017. [pmi.org/-/media/pmi/documents/public/pdf/learning/job-growth-report.pdf?sc_lang=temp=en](https://www.pmi.org/-/media/pmi/documents/public/pdf/learning/job-growth-report.pdf?sc_lang=temp=en).

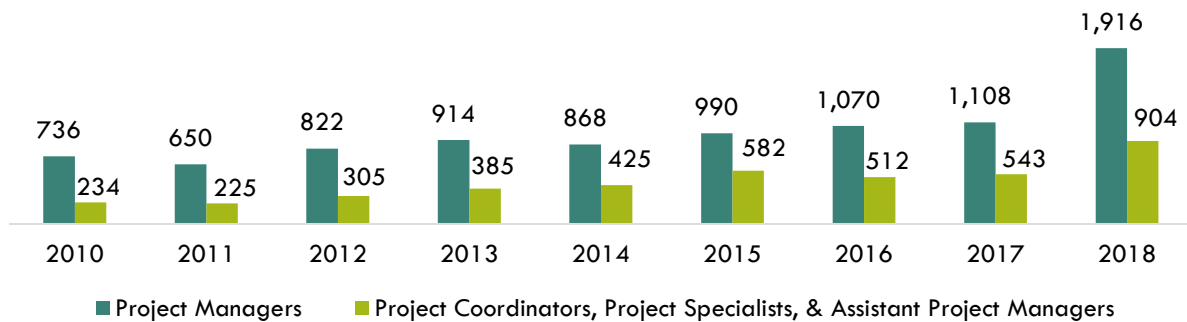
² “Project Manager Salaries in San Diego, CA Area,” Glassdoor, last modified April 19, 2019, [glassdoor.com/Salaries/san-diego-project-manager-salary-SRCH_IL0,9_IM758_KO10,25.htm](https://www.glassdoor.com/Salaries/san-diego-project-manager-salary-SRCH_IL0,9_IM758_KO10,25.htm).

include *Project Managers, Project Coordinators, Project Specialists, and Assistant Project Managers*. This brief also reviews certifications that are most prevalent in online job postings.

Online Job Postings

Between 2010 and 2018, there was an average of 1,008 online job postings per year for *Project Managers* and an average of 457 online job postings for *Project Coordinators, Project Specialists, and Assistant Project Managers* in San Diego County (Exhibit 1). Interestingly, between 2017 and 2018, there was a significant increase in the number of online job postings for *Project Management Occupations*; online job postings for *Project Managers* and the other three occupations increased by 42 percent and 40 percent, respectively.

Exhibit 1: Number of Online Job Postings for *Project Managers* and *Project Coordinators, Project Specialists, & Assistant Project Managers* in San Diego County (2010-2018)³



Top Certifications

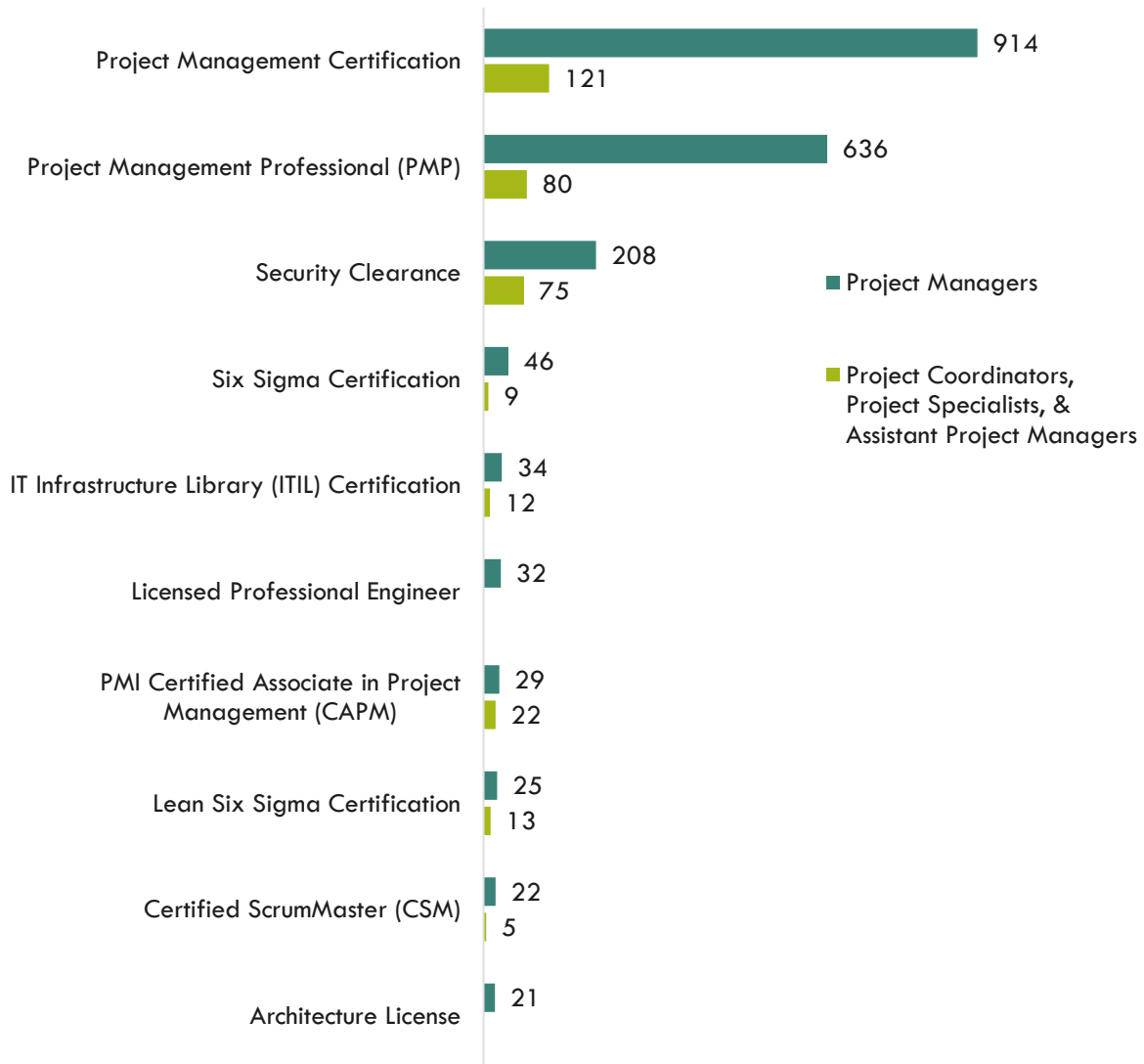
The most commonly known project management certification is the Project Management Professional (PMP), provided by the Project Management Institute (PMI), which sets standards for project management. To qualify for the PMP certification examination, an individual must have a significant amount of education and training (e.g., 4,500 to 7,500 hours of project management work experience).⁴ Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) could be considered the entry-level certification in the field because it has fewer prerequisites than the PMP certification.

³ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2010-2018. [Specialized Occupation: Assistant Project Manager; Specialized Occupation: Project Coordinator; Title with: Project Specialist; Specialized Occupation: Project Manager (General)].

⁴ "Project Management Professional (PMP)," Project Management Institute, [pmi.org/certifications/types/project-management-pmp](https://www.pmi.org/certifications/types/project-management-pmp).

According to online job postings data, the top certifications that appeared in online job postings between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018 for *Project Management Occupations* were “Project Management Certification” and “Project Management Professional (PMP).” CAPM had very few online job postings in comparison (Exhibit 2).

Exhibit 2: Top Certifications for Project Managers and Project Coordinators, Project Specialists, & Assistant Project Managers in San Diego County (2016-2018)⁵



⁵ Burning Glass Technologies, “Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool.” 2016-2018. [Specialized Occupation: Assistant Project Manager; Specialized Occupation: Project Coordinator; Title with: Project Specialist; Specialized Occupation: Project Manager (General)].

Potential Educational Supply

With more than 20 online providers that issue project management certificates, it is difficult to determine the quality of such programs and the number of students who graduate from them. However, the following exhibit provides information about online project management programs, including their costs and whether they are certified with PMI.

Exhibit 3: Online Project Management Programs, Costs, and Websites

| Online Certifications | Cost | Site | PMI Certified |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---|---------------|
| BrainBOK PMP | \$120 | https://bit.ly/2HPfa8R | No |
| Brain Sensei | \$499 | https://bit.ly/2uojhAZ | Yes |
| Cornell University | \$3,600 | https://bit.ly/2Fuhqzp | Yes |
| Coursera | Varies | https://bit.ly/2HE44UU | Yes |
| Expert Rating | \$99 | https://bit.ly/2uzlQiF | No |
| Florida Atlantic University | \$2,295 | https://bit.ly/2JARRID | Yes |
| Go Skills | \$39/monthly | https://bit.ly/2FpYaTL | Yes |
| Grey Campus | \$300 | https://bit.ly/2U3k0pH | Yes |
| Master of Project Academy | \$197/monthly | https://bit.ly/2WkBCL5 | Yes |
| OnlinePMCourses | \$397 | https://bit.ly/2Uf6lvT | Yes |
| Project Management Institute | \$749 | https://bit.ly/2URln6l | Yes |
| Project Management Training Institute | \$895 | https://bit.ly/2YkGFwI | Yes |
| PM PrepCast | \$299 | https://bit.ly/2On1OSs | No |
| Purdue University Global | \$7,760 | https://bit.ly/2IF11yq | No |
| Simplilearn PMP | \$499 | https://bit.ly/2oZW04Z | Yes |
| Sybex PMP | \$495 | https://bit.ly/2Ony341 | Yes |
| University of California, Irvine | \$2,980 | https://bit.ly/2FwbIDP | Yes |
| University of Phoenix | Not listed | https://bit.ly/2JCSBqA | Yes |
| University of Virginia | \$9,468 | https://at.virginia.edu/2N2JmMQ | Yes |

Top Employers

Between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2018, the top employers that placed online job postings in San Diego County for *Project Managers* were [General Atomics](#); [Becton Dickinson](#); [Northrop Grumman](#); [University of California, San Diego](#); and [Illumina Incorporated](#). In the same period, the top employers for *Project Coordinators, Project Specialists, and Assistant Project Managers* were [General Atomics](#), [University of California, California Center for Sustainable Energy](#), [San Diego County Office of Education](#), and [AECOM Technology Corporation](#) (Exhibit 4).

Exhibit 4: Top Employers in Online Job Postings for *Project Management Occupations* in San Diego County⁶

| Project Managers | Project Coordinators, Project Specialists, & Assistant Project Managers |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Atomics • Becton Dickinson • Northrop Grumman • University of California, San Diego • Illumina Incorporated | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Atomics • University of California • California Center for Sustainable Energy • San Diego County Office of Education • AECOM Technology Corporation |

Top Job Titles

Exhibit 5 lists the top alternative job titles for *Project Management Occupations* in online job postings between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018 in San Diego County.

Exhibit 5: Top Job Titles in Online Job Postings for *Project Management Occupations* in San Diego County⁷

| Project Managers | Project Coordinators, Project Specialists, & Assistant Project Managers |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Project Manager • Assistant Manager • Project Administrator • Information Technology Project Manager • Project Estimator • Associate Project Manager | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Manager • Project Administrator • Associate Project Managers • Project Controls Specialist • Administrative Coordinator • Project Management Specialist • Associate Project Coordinator |

⁶ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2016-2018. [Specialized Occupation: Assistant Project Manager; Specialized Occupation: Project Coordinator; Title with: Project Specialist; Specialized Occupation: Project Manager (General)].

⁷ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2016-2018. [Specialized Occupation: Assistant Project Manager; Specialized Occupation: Project Coordinator; Title with: Project Specialist; Specialized Occupation: Project Manager (General)].

Top Skills

The following exhibits list the top specialized, soft, and software skills that appeared in online job postings between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2018 for *Project Management Occupations*. The lists of skills are essentially the same, but the order of preference is slightly different between *Project Managers* and *Project Coordinators, Project Specialists, & Assistant Project Managers*.

Exhibit 6a: Top Skills in Online Job Postings for *Project Managers* in San Diego County⁸

| Specialized Skills | Soft Skills | Software Skills |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Management • Budgeting • Scheduling • Project Planning and Development Skills • Customer Service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication Skills • Planning • Teamwork / Collaboration • Organizational Skills • Problem Solving | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Excel • Microsoft Project • Microsoft PowerPoint • Microsoft Word • Microsoft Visio |

Exhibit 6b: Top Skills in Online Job Postings for *Project Coordinators, Project Specialists, & Assistant Project Managers* in San Diego County⁹

| Specialized Skills | Soft Skills | Software Skills |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Management • Scheduling • Budgeting • Customer Service • Project Planning and Development Skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication Skills • Organizational Skills • Detail-Oriented • Planning • Problem Solving | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Excel • Microsoft PowerPoint • Microsoft Word • Microsoft Project • Microsoft SharePoint |

⁸ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2016-2018. [Specialized Occupation: Assistant Project Manager; Specialized Occupation: Project Coordinator; Title with: Project Specialist; Specialized Occupation: Project Manager (General)].

⁹ Burning Glass Technologies, "Labor Insight Real-Time Labor Market Information Tool." 2016-2018. [Specialized Occupation: Assistant Project Manager; Specialized Occupation: Project Coordinator; Title with: Project Specialist; Specialized Occupation: Project Manager (General)].

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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.