Pharmacy Technology

Inland Empire/Desert Region (Riverside and San Bernardino counties combined)

This workforce demand report uses state and federal job projection data developed before the economic impact of COVID-19. The COE is monitoring the situation and will provide more information as it becomes available. Please consult with local employers to understand their current employment needs.

Introduction

This report provides labor market occupational demand and wage research and postsecondary programs outcomes related to pharmacy technology. The California Community College pharmacy technology (TOP 1221.00) program prepares students for employment as pharmacy technicians through the instruction of the principles and procedures used to assist in maintaining and dispensing pharmaceutical supplies and medications (Taxonomy of Programs, 2012). Occupational definitions, alternative job titles, education, work experience, and training requirements are provided below:

Pharmacy Technicians (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 job titles: Accredited Pharmacy Technician, Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT), Chemotherapy Pharmacy Technician (Chemo Pharmacy Technician), Compounding Technician, OR Pharmacy Tech (Operating Room Pharmacy Tech), RPhT (Registered Pharmacy Technician)

Entry-Level Educational Requirement: High school diploma or equivalent
Training Requirement: Between one and twelve months on-the-job training
Work Experience: None
Incumbent workers with a Community College Award or Some Postsecondary Coursework: 52%

Employment

In 2020, there were 4,461 pharmacy technician jobs in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. Employment for this occupation is expected to grow by 1% through 2025. Over this period, 401 annual job openings are projected for pharmacy technicians. Exhibit 1 displays the job counts, five-year

projected job growth, job openings, and the share of incumbent workers age 55 years and better in the region.

Exhibit 1: Five-year projections, 2020-2025

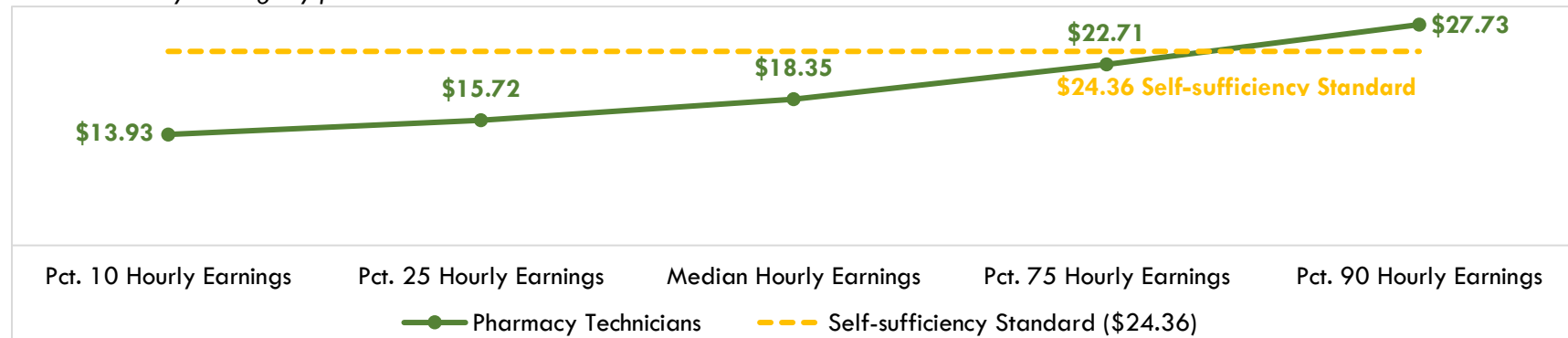| Occupation	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	2020 -2025 Change	2020 -2025 % Change	2020-25 Job Openings	Annual Job Openings	% of workers age 55+
Pharmacy Technicians	4,461	4,843	382	9%	2,006	401	11%

Source: Emsi 2022.1

Earnings

Community colleges should ensure their training programs lead to employment opportunities that provide self-sustainable income. The University of Washington estimates that a self-sufficient hourly rate for a single adult with one school-age child is $24.36 per hour or $51,452 annually in Riverside County; $23.73 per hour or $50,119 annually in San Bernardino County (Pearce, 2021). For this study, the higher hourly earnings requirement in Riverside County is adopted as the self-sufficiency standard for the two-county region.

Exhibit 2 displays the hourly earnings for pharmacy technicians in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. The hourly earnings for pharmacy technicians do not surpass the self-sustainability rate until the 90th percentile, indicating that only the top 10% of workers in this occupation earn a self-sustainable wage.

Exhibit 2: Hourly earnings by percentile

Source: Emsi 2022.1

Employer Online Job Advertisements

The sections below provide online job advertisement analytics data for pharmacy technicians over the last 12 months, from March 2021 to March 2022. Over this period, regional employers issued 1,646 job advertisements for pharmacy technicians. Exhibit 3 displays the employers posting the most job advertisements for pharmacy technicians. Showing employer names provides some insight into where students may find employment after completing a program.

Exhibit 3: Employers posting the most job advertisements for pharmacy technicians

Employers	Unique Job Ads
CVS Health	311
Walgreens Boots Alliance	218
Rite Aid	114
RPh on the Go	103
Walmart	84
Loma Linda University	32

Source: Emsi 2022.1

Exhibit 4 displays the most common skills or qualifications found in employer job advertisements for pharmacy technicians. Qualifications refer to the certifications decided on by a third-party entity (school, government, industry, etc.) that acknowledges a body of skills and abilities. Skills are competencies at specific tasks or familiarity with specific subjects and tools acquired through education or experience.

Exhibit 4: The most common skills or qualifications requested in job advertisements for pharmacy technicians

Skill or Qualification	Job Ads	% of Total Job Ads
Certified Pharmacy Technician	1,168	71%
Medical Prescription	1,032	63%
Customer Service	849	52%
Basic Math	455	28%

Skill or Qualification	Job Ads	% of Total Job Ads
Pharmacist Assistance	438	27%
Pharmaceuticals	399	24%
Packaging And Labeling	379	23%
Communications	374	23%

Source: Emsi 2022.1

Community College Programs

Three regional community colleges currently offer pharmacy technology (TOP 1221.00) programs. Regional community college programs have issued 29 awards annually over the last three academic years, 2018-2021.

Exhibit 5: Average annual community college completions in pharmacy technology programs, 2018-21

Colleges (Local Program Title)	Annual Average Awards (2018-21)
Chaffey	15
Desert (Pharmacy Technician)	0
San Bernardino Valley (Pharmacy Technology)	14
Total	**29**

Sources: MIS Data Mart, COCI

This labor market brief provides an occupational and community college program overview and is not intended for regional program recommendation or submission to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

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