

**Labor Market Assessment: 1302.00 – Interior Design and Merchandising**  
**Interior Design (Associate Degree and Certificate)**  
 Los Angeles County Center of Excellence, June 2022

**Summary**

<b>Program Endorsement:</b>	<b>Endorsed: All Criteria Met</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Endorsed: Some Criteria Met</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not Endorsed</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Program Endorsement Criteria</b>			
<b>Supply Gap:</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25<sup>th</sup>)</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Education:</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Emerging Occupation(s)</b>			
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The Los Angeles County Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (LA COE) prepared this report to provide regional labor market supply and demand data related to two occupations:

- *Interior designers (27-1025)* and
- *Set and exhibit designers (27-1027)*.

Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor’s degree.<sup>1</sup> Although the occupations in this report typically require a bachelor’s degree, they were included in this report because nearly one-third of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education. This report is intended to help determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from community college programs that align with the relevant occupations.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap in the region for the occupations of interest. Although the majority of annual openings have entry-level wages that exceed the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, the Bureau of Labor Statistics lists a bachelor’s degree as the typically entry-level education for the occupations in this report. **Due to some of the criteria being met, the LA COE endorses this proposed program.**

Detailed reasons include:

**Demand:**

- **Supply Gap Criteria** – Over the next five years, there is projected to be **1,172 jobs available annually** in the region due to new job growth and replacements, **which is more than the 323 awards conferred annually** by educational institutions in the region.

<sup>1</sup> The COE classifies middle-skill jobs as the following:

- All occupations that require an educational requirement of some college, associate degree or apprenticeship;
- All occupations that require a bachelor’s degree, but also have more than one-third of their existing labor force with an educational attainment of some college or associate degree; or
- All occupations that require a high school diploma or equivalent or no formal education, but also require short- to long-term on-the-job training where multiple community colleges have existing programs.

- **Living Wage Criteria** – In Los Angeles County, the **majority (60%) of annual openings** for the occupations of interest have entry-level wages **above the self-sufficiency standard wage** (\$18.10/hour).<sup>2</sup>
- **Educational Criteria** – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a **bachelor's degree** as the typical entry-level education for both occupations in this report.
  - National-level educational attainment data indicates that between 27% and 29% of incumbent workers have completed some college or an associate degree.

**Supply:**

- Between 2017 and 2020, **6 community colleges** in the LA/OC region issued awards in interior design and merchandising programs, conferring an average of **178 awards**.
- Between 2016 and 2019, non-community college institutions in the region conferred an average of **145 awards in relevant programs**.

**Occupational Demand**

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for the two occupations of interest. In the Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase by 5% through 2025. There will be nearly 1,200 job openings per year through 2025 due to job growth and replacements.

*This report includes employment projection data by Emsi which uses EDD information. Emsi's projections are modeled on recorded (historical) employment figures and incorporate several underlying assumptions, including the assumption that the economy, during the projection period, will be at approximately full employment. To the extent that a recession or labor shock, such as the economic effects of COVID-19, can cause long-term structural change, it may impact the projections. At this time, it is not possible to quantify the full impact of COVID-19 on projections of industry and occupational employment. Therefore, the projections included in this report do not take the full impacts of COVID-19 into account.*

**Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties<sup>3</sup>**

Geography	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	2020-2025 Change	2020-2025 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	8,871	9,185	314	4%	881
Orange	2,448	2,702	254	10%	290
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,320</b>	<b>11,887</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>1,172</b>

<sup>2</sup> Self-Sufficiency Standard wage data was pulled from The Self-Sufficiency Standard Tool for California. For more information, visit: <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/california>.

<sup>3</sup> Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

## Wages

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the hourly wages for the two occupations of interest in Los Angeles County, as they relate to the county's self-sufficiency standard wage.

Orange County wages are included below in order to provide a complete analysis of the LA/OC region. Detailed wage information, by county, is included in Appendix A.

**Los Angeles County** – The majority (60%) of annual openings for the two occupations of interest have entry-level wages **above** the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$18.00 and \$21.61. The occupation in this report with entry-level wages above the county's self-sufficiency standard is *interior designers* (\$21.61). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$41.95 and \$42.58, which are above the self-sufficiency standard wage estimate.

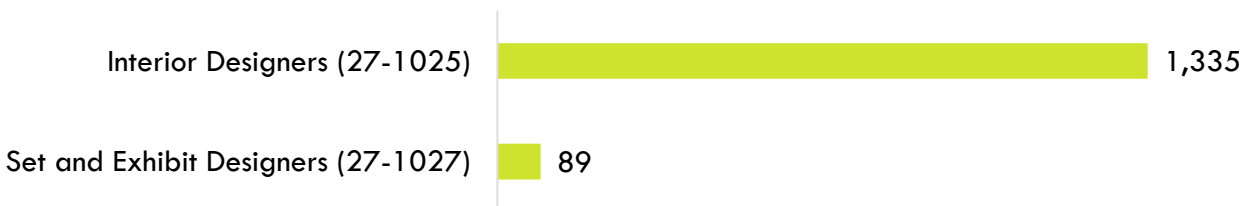
**Orange County** – The majority (85%) of annual openings for the two occupations of interest have entry-level wages **above** the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$14.09 and \$22.33. The occupation in this report with entry-level wages above the county's self-sufficiency standard is *interior designers* (\$22.33). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$40.02 and \$41.54, which are above the self-sufficiency standard wage estimate.

## Job Postings

Over the past 12 months, there have been 1,424 online job postings related to the two occupations of interest. Exhibit 2 displays the number of job postings by occupation. The majority of job postings (94%) were for *interior designers*. The highest number of job postings were for interior designers, interior design assistants, kitchen/bath designers, design consultants, and junior interior designers. The top skills were interior design, AutoCAD, Adobe Photoshop, SketchUp, and Adobe InDesign. The top employers, by number of job postings, in the region were The Home Depot Incorporated, Gensler, and Floor and Décor.

*It is important to note that the job postings data included in this section reflects online job postings listed in the past 12 months and does not yet demonstrate the full impact of COVID-19. While employers have generally posted fewer online job postings since the beginning of the pandemic, the long-term effects are currently unknown.*

**Exhibit 2: Job postings by occupation (last 12 months)**



## Educational Attainment

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a bachelor's degree as the typical entry-level education for both occupations in this report. National-level educational attainment data indicates that between 27% and 29% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.

## Educational Supply

**Community College Supply** – Exhibit 3 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in Interior Design and Merchandising (TOP 1302.00). The colleges with the most completions in the region are Saddleback and Orange Coast.

**Exhibit 3: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2017-2020**

TOP	Program	College	2017-18 Awards	2018-19 Awards	2019-20 Awards	3-Year Average
1302.00	Interior Design and Merchandising	LA Mission	7	5	16	9
		Mt San Antonio	19	36	32	29
		Santa Monica	30	15	32	26
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>64</b>
		Fullerton	34	12	23	23
		Orange Coast	34	43	46	41
		Saddleback	32	58	59	50
		<b>OC Subtotal</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>156</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>178</b>

**Non-Community College Supply** – For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that may provide training programs for interior design. Exhibit 4 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent three-year period of available data is from 2016 to 2019. Between 2016 and 2019, non-community college institutions in the region conferred an average of 145 awards.

**Exhibit 4: Regional non-community college awards, 2016-2019**

CIP	Program	Institution	2016-17 Awards	2017-18 Awards	2018-19 Awards	3-Year Average
50.0408	Interior Design	CSU-Long Beach	33	32	32	32
		Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising – LA	53	51	46	50
		Interior Designers Institute	55	56	77	63
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>141</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>145</b>

**Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county**

**Exhibit 5. Los Angeles County**

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)
Interior Designers (27-1025)	5,187	5,398	211	4%	525	\$21.61	\$29.67	\$42.58
Set and Exhibit Designers (27-1027)	3,684	3,786	102	3%	356	\$18.00	\$29.60	\$41.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,871</b>	<b>9,185</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>881</b>	-	-	-

**Exhibit 6. Orange County**

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)
Interior Designers (27-1025)	1,943	2,238	295	15%	247	\$22.33	\$29.88	\$41.54
Set and Exhibit Designers (27-1027)	506	465	(41)	(8%)	43	\$14.09	\$24.11	\$40.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,448</b>	<b>2,702</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>290</b>	-	-	-

**Exhibit 7. Los Angeles and Orange Counties**

Occupation (SOC)	2020 Jobs	2025 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Typical Entry-Level Education
Interior Designers (27-1025)	7,130	7,636	506	7%	772	Bachelor's degree
Set and Exhibit Designers (27-1027)	4,190	4,251	61	1%	400	Bachelor's degree
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,320</b>	<b>11,887</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>1,172</b>	-

## Appendix B: Sources

- O\*NET Online
- Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)
- Economic Modeling Specialists, International (Emsi)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- Self-Sufficiency Standard at the Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington
- Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI 2.0)

For more information, please contact:

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