FALL 2025

High-Quality Occupations Profile:

Northern Los Angeles County

• Executive Summary

This Northern Los Angeles County High-Quality Occupations Profile provides key findings from the SCC COE's analysis of the county's labor market, which emphasizes not only the number of jobs, projected growth, and demand, but also the quality of employment opportunities across occupational sectors. This report supports regional community colleges and workforce partners in aligning educational programs with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Vision 2030 goals and the economic realities of the South Central Coast (SCC) Region.

To address regional challenges related to the rising cost of living, an aging population, and the high concentration of lower-wage jobs, this analysis classifies 740 Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) occupations into High-, Medium-, and Low-Quality categories using nine criteria, blending traditional labor market indicators with measures of job quality such as wages, benefits, and automation risk. Of the 740 occupations: 148 (20%) are High Quality, 375 (52%) are Medium Quality, and 217 (29%) are Low Quality. The following points highlight key findings related to the 148 High-Quality occupations in Northern Los Angeles County.

- High-Quality occupations are concentrated in the **Health** (37 occupations), **Business and Entrepreneurship** (34), and **Education and Human Development** (17) sectors.
- High-Quality occupations accounted for 29% of total regional employment in 2024 (74,088 jobs).
  - These occupations are projected to grow 3% between 2024 and 2029, slightly outpacing overall employment growth in the region.
  - Notably, employment for **Health** occupations is expected to increase 9%, underscoring the demand for skilled workers in healthcare. In contrast, sectors such as **Education and Human Development** (0.4%) and **Business and Entrepreneurship** (1%) and are projected to grow at a slower rate.
- Entry-level wages in nearly all High-Quality occupations exceed both the Self-Sufficiency Standard ($24.03 per hour) and MIT Living Wage ($27.81 per hour) thresholds, with **Public Safety** ($47.03), **ICT/Digital Media** ($47.00), and **Health** ($42.45) leading the way.
- Sectors with high rates of employer-sponsored health insurance coverage include **Public Safety** (97%), **Agriculture, Water and Environmental Technologies** (92%), and **Education and Human Development** (90%).
- Automation risk is low across sectors, with **ICT/Digital Media** and **Education and Human Development** having the lowest levels of risk and **Energy, Construction, and Utilities** having the highest.

The findings highlight the importance of targeted investments in education, training, and workforce development that expand access to High-Quality occupations, ensure equitable participation in the labor force, and strengthen the region's long-term economic resilience.

Access all other resources related to Job Quality in the SCC Region by scanning the QR Code. Other resources include a report on job quality across the entire SCC Region, County Profiles for each county in the SCC Region, Data Exploration Addendums for each area, and a SCC Region Job Quality Dashboard for those that would like to further explore the data.

Scan this code to access the digital report and other resources related to the SCC COE's Job Quality analysis, including County Profiles, Data Exploration Addendums, and a SCC Region Job Quality Dashboard.
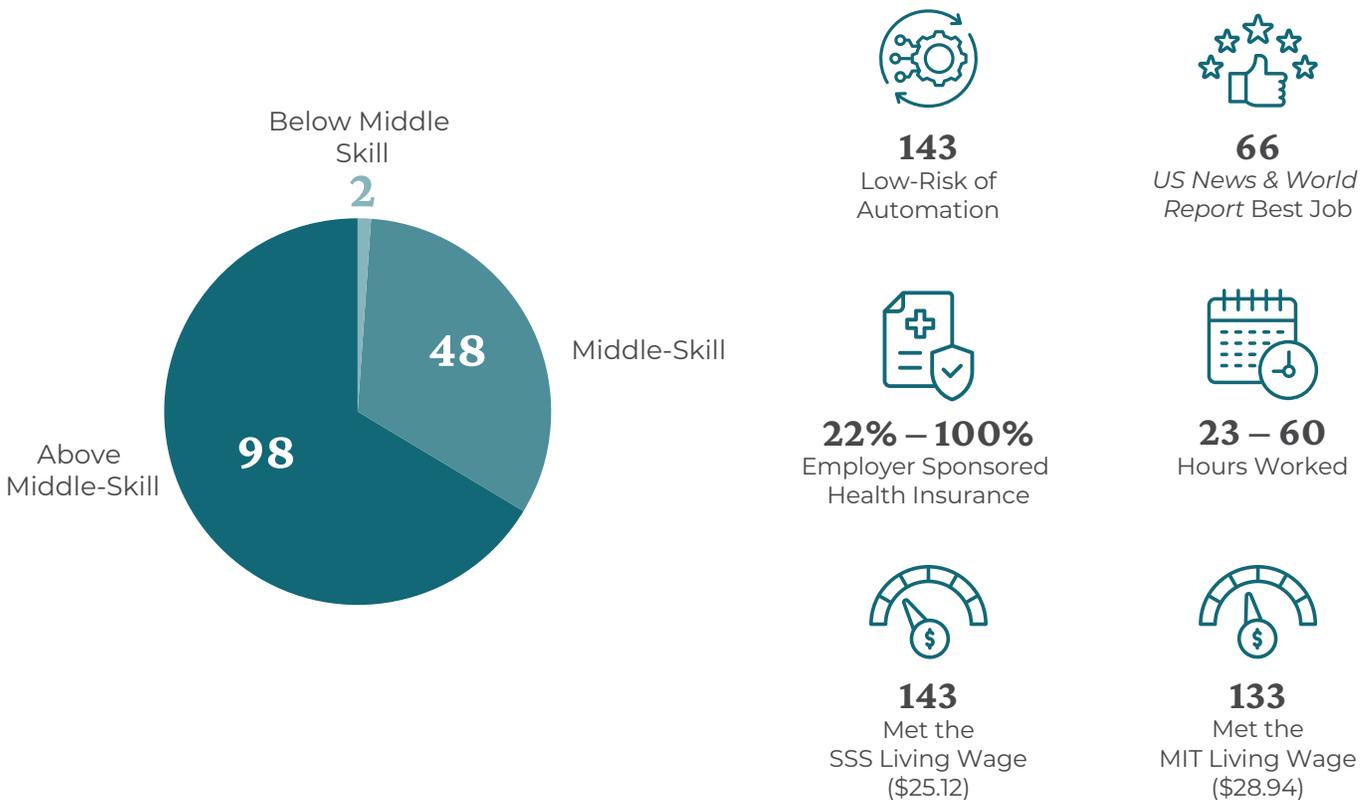
• High-Quality Occupations in Northern Los Angeles County

740 Total Occupations

148 High-Quality Occupations

Pie Chart

Below Middle Skill
2

Middle-Skill
48

Above Middle-Skill
98

143 Low-Risk of Automation

66 *US News & World Report* Best Job

22% – 100% Employer Sponsored Health Insurance

23 – 60 Hours Worked

143 Met the SSS Living Wage ($25.12)

133 Met the MIT Living Wage ($28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

74,088 Jobs in 2024

6,049 Annual Openings

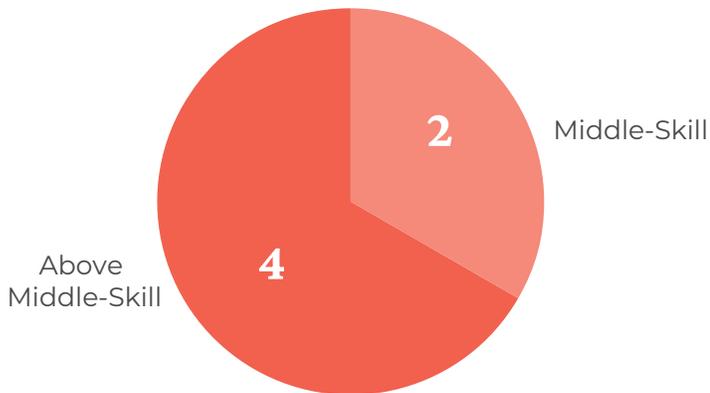**3%** 5-Year % Change

$18.⁸⁴ – $99.⁶⁹ Entry-Level Wages

● Advanced Manufacturing

93 Total Occupations

6 High-Quality Occupations

6
Low-Risk of
Automation

3
*US News & World
Report* Best Job

82% − 100%
Employer Sponsored
Health Insurance

40 − 51
Hours Worked

6
Met the
SSS Living Wage
($25.12)

6
Met the
MIT Living Wage
($28.94)

Middle-Skill **2**

Above
Middle-Skill **4**

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

1,610
Jobs in 2024

117
Annual Openings

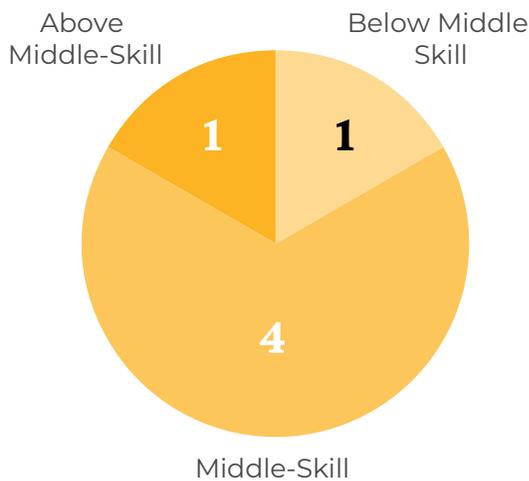**2%**
5-Year % Change

$28.²² − $48.²⁶
Entry-Level Wages

• Advanced Transportation and Logistics

57 Total Occupations

6 High-Quality Occupations

Above Middle-Skill: 1
Below Middle Skill: 1
Middle-Skill: 4

5 Low-Risk of Automation

2 *US News & World Report* Best Job

85% − 94% Employer Sponsored Health Insurance

34 − 49 Hours Worked

6 Met the SSS Living Wage ($25.12)

5 Met the MIT Living Wage ($28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

1,816 Jobs in 2024

184 Annual Openings

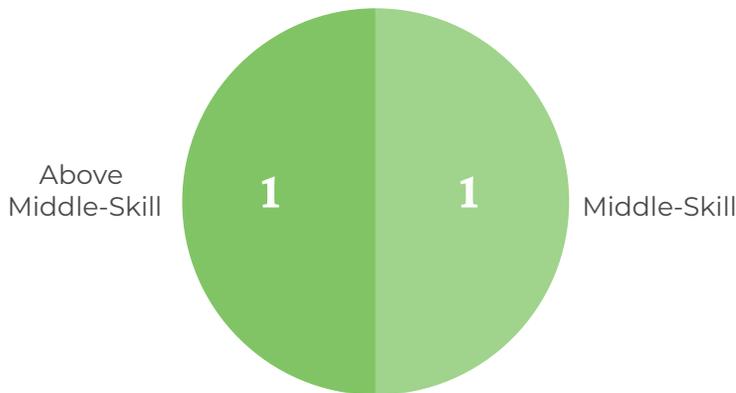**4%** 5-Year % Change

$24.²⁵ − $99.⁶⁹ Entry-Level Wages

• Agriculture, Water and Environmental Technologies

33 Total Occupations

2 High-Quality Occupations

Above Middle-Skill **1**

Middle-Skill **1**

2
Low-Risk of Automation

2
US News & World Report Best Job

90% – 95%
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance

36 – 57
Hours Worked

1
Met the SSS Living Wage ($25.12)

1
Met the MIT Living Wage ($28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

198
Jobs in 2024

21
Annual Openings

17%
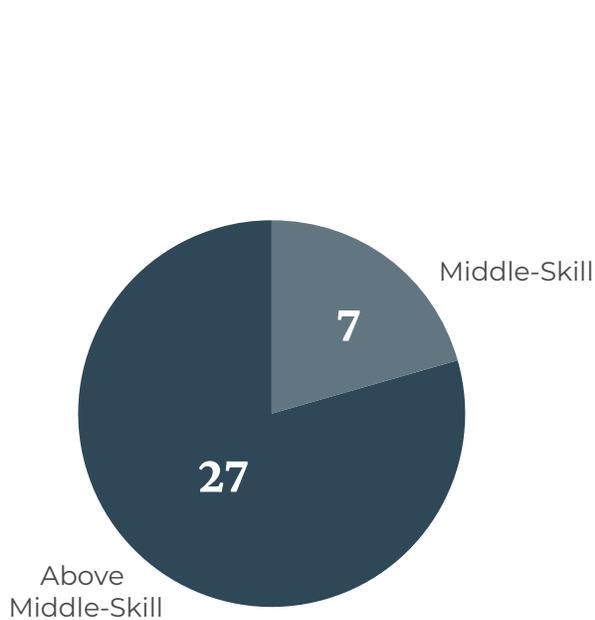5-Year % Change

$22.⁵² – $45.⁵⁵
Entry-Level Wages

• Business and Entrepreneurship

98 Total Occupations

34 High-Quality Occupations

Middle-Skill
7

27
Above
Middle-Skill

34
Low-Risk of
Automation

15
*US News & World
Report* Best Job

70% − 100%
Employer Sponsored
Health Insurance

36 − 60
Hours Worked

34
Met the
SSS Living Wage
($25.12)

34
Met the
MIT Living Wage
($28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

25,236
Jobs in 2024

2,127
Annual Openings

1%
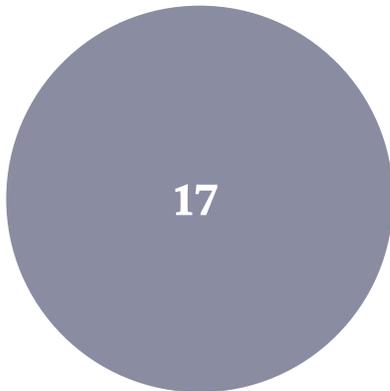5-Year % Change

$28.24 − $60.98
Entry-Level Wages

• Education and Human Development

35 Total Occupations

17 High-Quality Occupations

17
Above
Middle-Skill

17
Low-Risk of
Automation

2
*US News & World
Report* Best Job

74% − 100%
Employer Sponsored
Health Insurance

29 − 42
Hours Worked

16
Met the
SSS Living Wage
($25.12)

15
Met the
MIT Living Wage
($28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

11,321
Jobs in 2024

874
Annual Openings

0%
5-Year % Change

$22.⁹¹ − $60.¹²
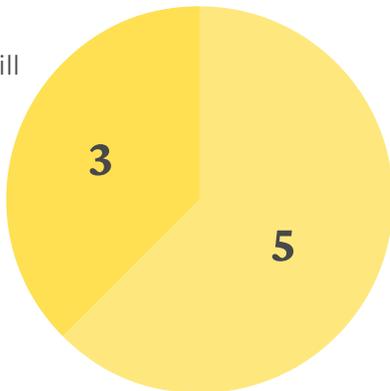Entry-Level Wages

• Energy, Construction and Utilities

98 Total Occupations

8 High-Quality Occupations

Above Middle-Skill **3**

Middle-Skill **5**

5
Low-Risk of Automation

2
US News & World Report Best Job

71% − 100%
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance

36 − 57
Hours Worked

8
Met the SSS Living Wage ($25.12)

8
Met the MIT Living Wage ($28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

2,417
Jobs in 2024

195
Annual Openings

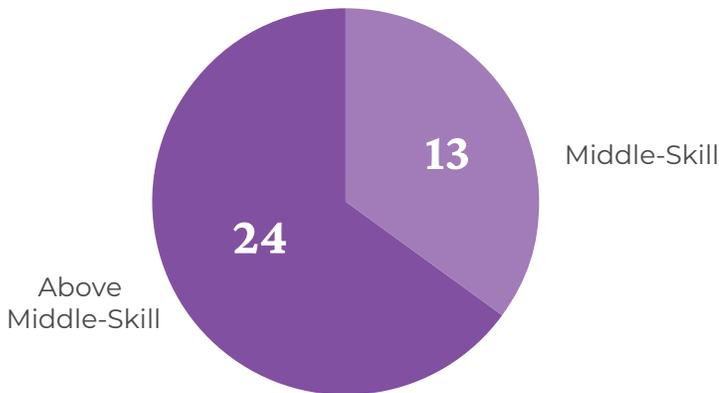**2%**
5-Year % Change

$29.⁸⁸ − $75.²³
Entry-Level Wages

● Health

100 Total Occupations

37 High-Quality Occupations

13 Middle-Skill

24 Above Middle-Skill

37
Low-Risk of
Automation

28
*US News & World
Report* Best Job

22% − 100%
Employer Sponsored
Health Insurance

23 − 50
Hours Worked

34
Met the
SSS Living Wage
($25.12)

30
Met the
MIT Living Wage
($28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

15,687
Jobs in 2024

1,317
Annual Openings

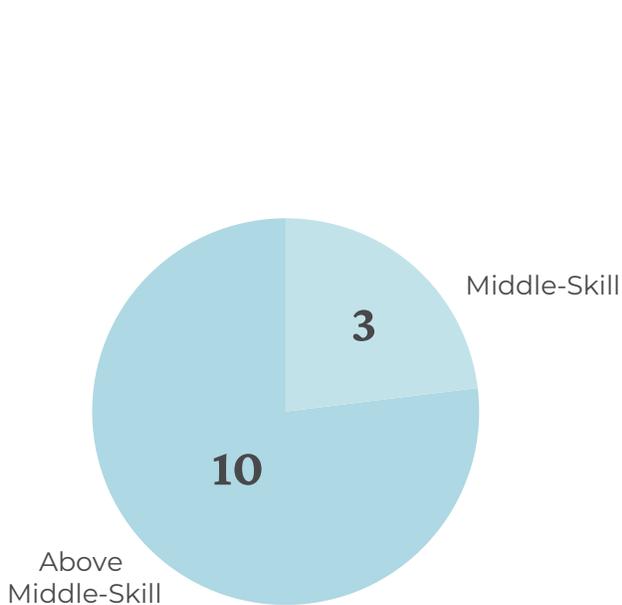**9%**
5-Year % Change

$18.⁸⁴ − $98.⁵¹
Entry-Level Wages

• ICT/Digital Media

48 Total Occupations

13 High-Quality Occupations

Middle-Skill
3

10
Above
Middle-Skill

13
Low-Risk of
Automation

8
*US News & World
Report* Best Job

73% – 100%
Employer Sponsored
Health Insurance

38 – 46
Hours Worked

13
Met the
SSS Living Wage
($25.12)

13
Met the
MIT Living Wage
($28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

5,394
Jobs in 2024

349
Annual Openings

2%
5-Year % Change

$28.¹² – $74.¹⁰
Entry-Level Wages

Life Sciences and Biotechnology

8 Total Occupations

0 High-Quality Occupations

No occupations in this sector qualified as High Quality

Low-Risk of Automation

US News & World Report Best Job

Employer Sponsored Health Insurance

Hours Worked

Met the SSS Living Wage ($25.12)

Met the MIT Living Wage ($28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

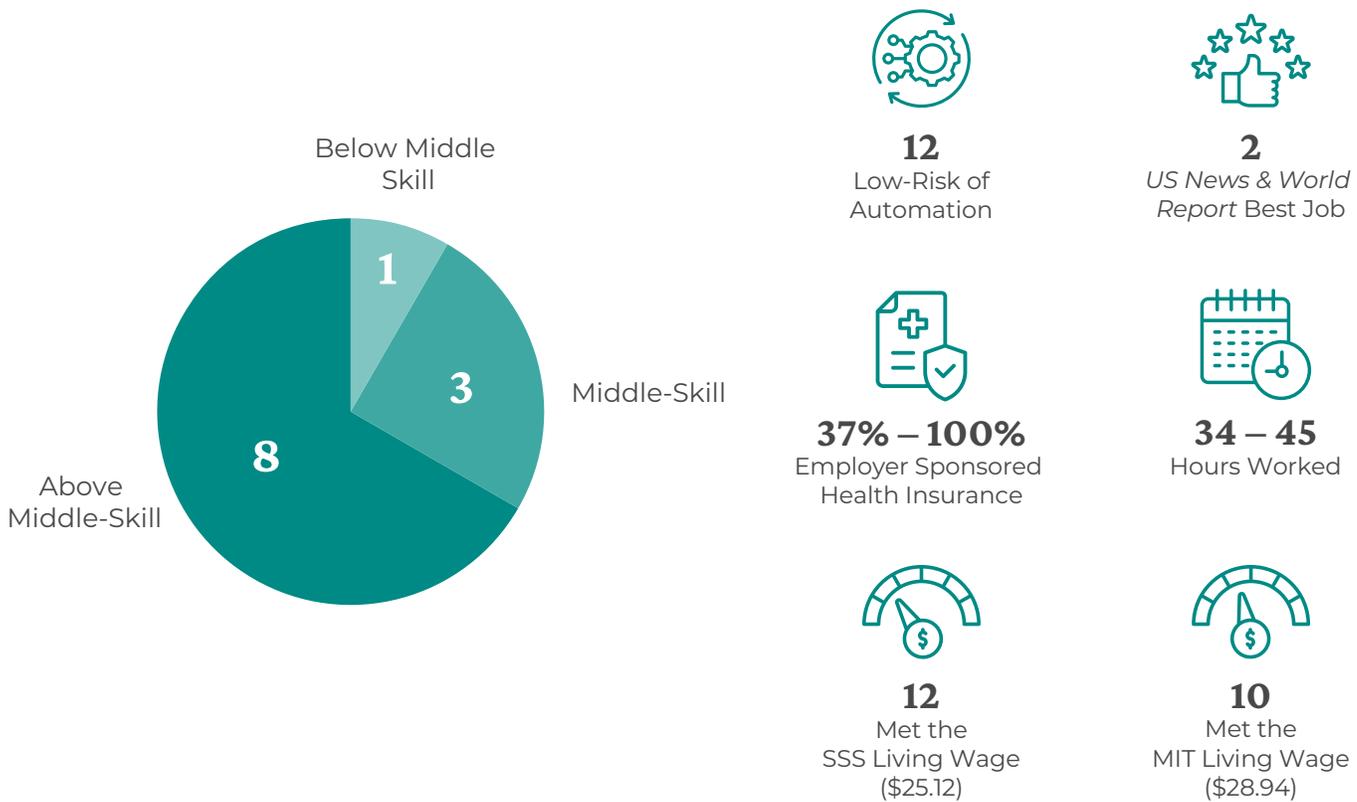Jobs in 2024

Annual Openings

5-Year % Change

Entry-Level Wages

• Other/Unassigned

96 Total Occupations

12 High-Quality Occupations

Pie Chart

- Below Middle Skill: **1**
- Middle-Skill: **3**
- Above Middle-Skill: **8**

12 Low-Risk of Automation

2 *US News & World Report* Best Job

37% − 100% Employer Sponsored Health Insurance

34 − 45 Hours Worked

12 Met the SSS Living Wage ($25.12)

10 Met the MIT Living Wage ($28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

4,904 Jobs in 2024

375 Annual Openings

2% 5-Year % Change

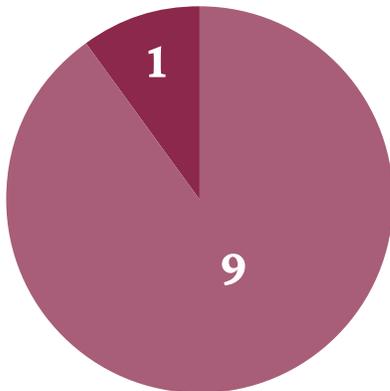**$25.¹⁴ − $62.³⁵** Entry-Level Wages

• Public Safety

25 Total Occupations

10 High-Quality Occupations

Above Middle-Skill
1

9
Middle-Skill

9
Low-Risk of Automation

1
US News & World Report Best Job

80% − 100%
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance

37 − 57
Hours Worked

10
Met the SSS Living Wage ($25.12)

9
Met the MIT Living Wage ($28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

5,075
Jobs in 2024

436
Annual Openings

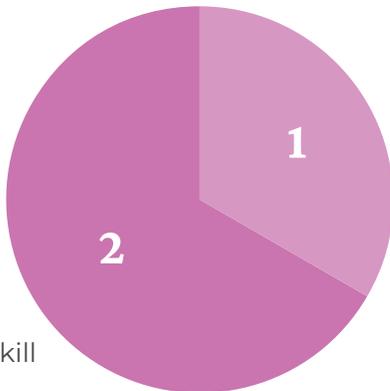**2%**
5-Year % Change

$27.⁶² − $76.⁹⁷
Entry-Level Wages

• Retail, Hospitality and Tourism

49 Total Occupations

3 High-Quality Occupations

3
Low-Risk of
Automation

1
*US News & World
Report* Best Job

74% − 89%
Employer Sponsored
Health Insurance

32 − 39
Hours Worked

3
Met the
SSS Living Wage
($25.12)

2
Met the
MIT Living Wage
($28.94)

1 Middle-Skill

2 Above Middle-Skill

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

430
Jobs in 2024

55
Annual Openings

7%
5-Year % Change

$25.⁴¹ − $33.⁰⁴
Entry-Level Wages

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Prepared by the South Central Coast Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research:

Jacob Poore, Director
Ashley Kernan, Research Manager
Janneth Najera, Research Manager

Important Disclaimers

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