

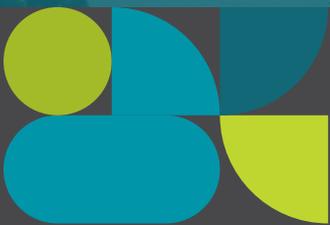


FOR LABOR MARKET RESEARCH
SOUTH CENTRAL COAST

FALL 2025

High-Quality Occupations Profile:

San Luis Obispo County



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• Executive Summary

This San Luis Obispo 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 659 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 659 occupations: 146 (22%) are High Quality, 339 (51%) are Medium Quality, and 174 (26%) are Low Quality. The following points highlight key findings related to the 146 High-Quality occupations in San Luis Obispo County.

- High-Quality occupations are concentrated in the **Health** (33 occupations), **Business and Entrepreneurship** (29), and **Education and Human Development** (16) sectors.
- High-Quality occupations accounted for 29% of total regional employment in 2024 (39,375 jobs).
 - These occupations are projected to grow 4% between 2024 and 2029, slightly outpacing overall employment growth in the region.
 - Notably, employment for **Advanced Manufacturing** occupations is expected to increase 12%, while sectors such as **ICT/Digital Media** (-1%) are projected to decline.
- Entry-level wages in nearly all High-Quality occupations exceed both the Self-Sufficiency Standard (\$22.15 per hour) and MIT Living Wage (\$26.55 per hour) thresholds, with **Public Safety** (\$44.58), **ICT/Digital Media** (\$43.42), and **Health** (\$40.58) leading the way.
- Sectors with high rates of employer-sponsored health insurance coverage include **Public Safety** (95%), **Advanced Transportation and Logistics** (93%), and **Retail, Hospitality and Tourism** (89%).
- Automation risk is low across all sectors, with **ICT/Digital Media** and **Education and Human Development** having the lowest levels of risk.

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.



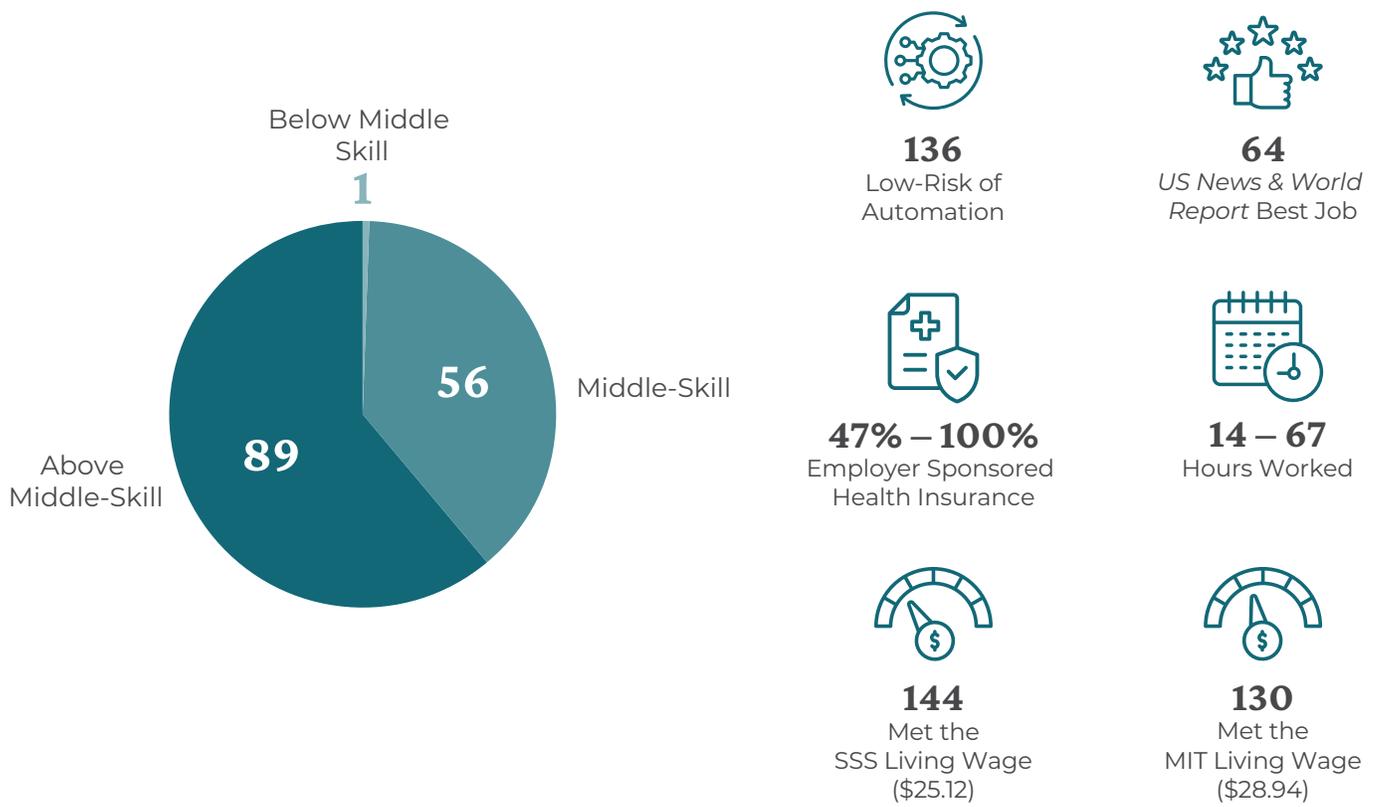
• High-Quality Occupations in San Luis Obispo County



659 Total Occupations



146 High-Quality Occupations



High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

39,375
Jobs in 2024

3,430
Annual Openings

4%
5-Year % Change

\$21.04 – \$77.98
Entry-Level Wages

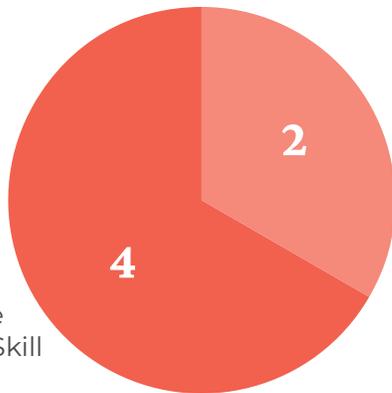
• Advanced Manufacturing



69 Total Occupations



6 High-Quality Occupations



Above Middle-Skill

Middle-Skill



5
Low-Risk of Automation



3
US News & World Report Best Job



57% – 100%
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance



40 – 50
Hours Worked



6
Met the SSS Living Wage (\$25.12)



6
Met the MIT Living Wage (\$28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

1,006
Jobs in 2024

106
Annual Openings

12%
5-Year % Change

\$27.63 – \$45.78
Entry-Level Wages

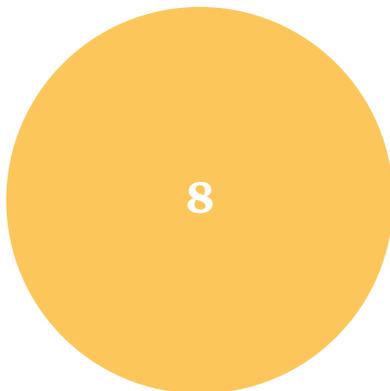
• Advanced Transportation and Logistics



49 Total Occupations



8 High-Quality Occupations



Middle-Skill



7
Low-Risk of Automation



2
US News & World Report Best Job



65% – 100%
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance



35 – 50
Hours Worked



8
Met the SSS Living Wage (\$25.12)



6
Met the MIT Living Wage (\$28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

1,728
Jobs in 2024

188
Annual Openings

7%
5-Year % Change

\$22.90 – \$45.13
Entry-Level Wages

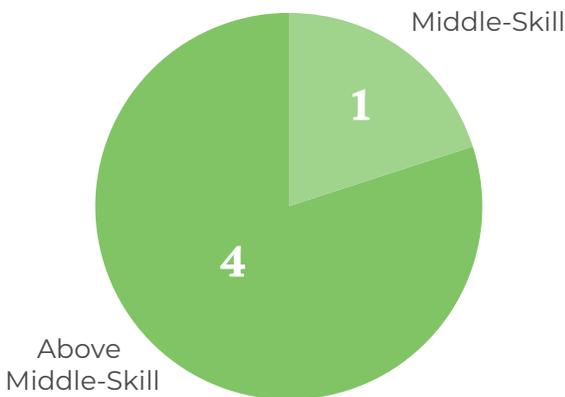
• Agriculture, Water and Environmental Technologies



41 Total Occupations



5 High-Quality Occupations



5
Low-Risk of Automation



3
US News & World Report Best Job



58% – 100%
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance



33 – 43
Hours Worked



5
Met the SSS Living Wage (\$25.12)



4
Met the MIT Living Wage (\$28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

478
Jobs in 2024

44
Annual Openings

9%
5-Year % Change

\$22.38 – \$54.30
Entry-Level Wages

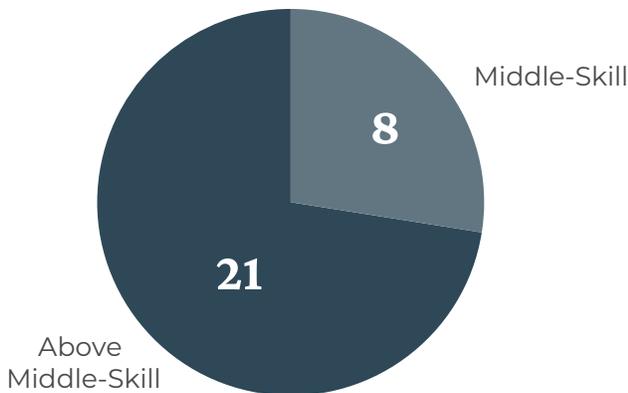
• Business and Entrepreneurship



89 Total Occupations



29 High-Quality Occupations



29
Low-Risk of Automation



15
US News & World Report Best Job



51% – 100%
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance



30 – 46
Hours Worked



29
Met the SSS Living Wage (\$25.12)



27
Met the MIT Living Wage (\$28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

12,304
Jobs in 2024

1,069
Annual Openings

2%
5-Year % Change

\$24.82 – \$50.91
Entry-Level Wages

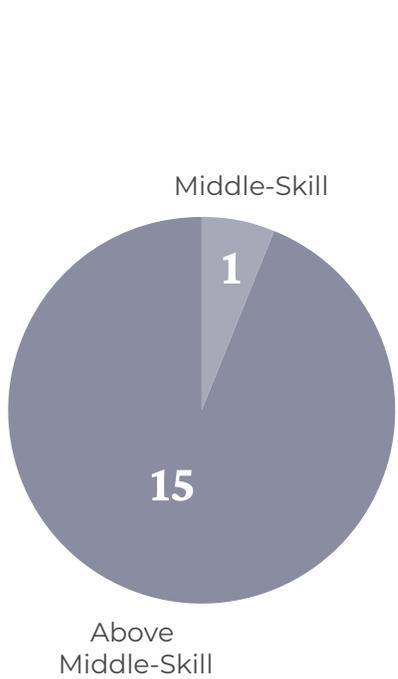
• Education and Human Development



34 Total Occupations



16 High-Quality Occupations



16
Low-Risk of Automation



2
US News & World Report Best Job



53% – 100%
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance



20 – 43
Hours Worked



16
Met the SSS Living Wage (\$25.12)



14
Met the MIT Living Wage (\$28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

6,126
Jobs in 2024

538
Annual Openings

4%
5-Year % Change

\$23.32 – \$59.00
Entry-Level Wages

• Energy, Construction and Utilities

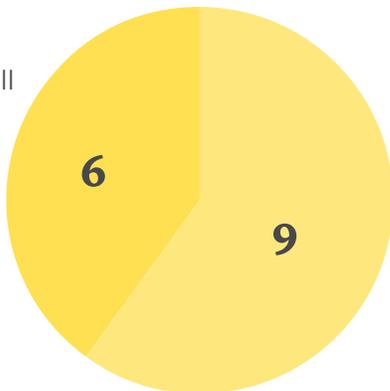


77 Total Occupations



15 High-Quality Occupations

Above Middle-Skill



Middle-Skill



9

Low-Risk of Automation



6

US News & World Report Best Job



47% – 100%
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance



35 – 47
Hours Worked



15
Met the SSS Living Wage (\$25.12)



13
Met the MIT Living Wage (\$28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

4,066
Jobs in 2024

361
Annual Openings

4%
5-Year % Change

\$23.27 – \$77.98
Entry-Level Wages

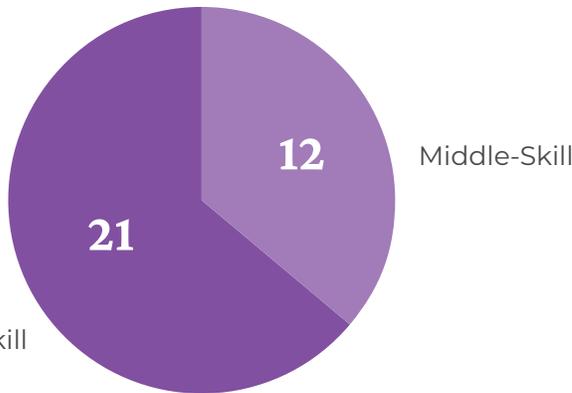
• Health



91 Total Occupations



33 High-Quality Occupations



33
Low-Risk of Automation



24
US News & World Report Best Job



58% – 100%
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance



14 – 67
Hours Worked



31
Met the SSS Living Wage (\$25.12)



28
Met the MIT Living Wage (\$28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

7,514
Jobs in 2024

640
Annual Openings

5%
5-Year % Change

\$21.04 – \$73.63
Entry-Level Wages

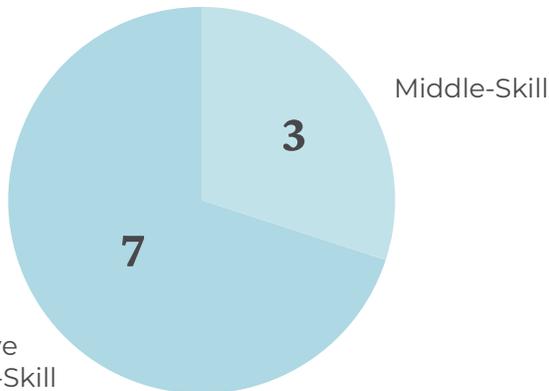
• ICT/Digital Media



41 Total Occupations



10 High-Quality Occupations



10
Low-Risk of Automation



6
US News & World Report Best Job



69% – 100%
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance



33 – 44
Hours Worked



10
Met the SSS Living Wage (\$25.12)



10
Met the MIT Living Wage (\$28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

1,888
Jobs in 2024

112
Annual Openings

(1%)
5-Year % Change

\$29.05 – \$59.80
Entry-Level Wages

• Life Sciences and Biotechnology

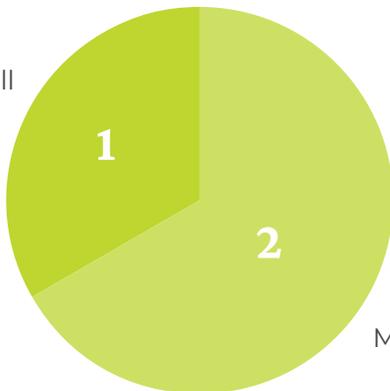


8 Total Occupations



3 High-Quality Occupations

Above
Middle-Skill



Middle-Skill



3
Low-Risk of
Automation



1
*US News & World
Report Best Job*



78% – 100%
Employer Sponsored
Health Insurance



26 – 45
Hours Worked



3
Met the
SSS Living Wage
(\$25.12)



2
Met the
MIT Living Wage
(\$28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

235
Jobs in 2024

31
Annual Openings

4%
5-Year % Change

\$23.08 – \$43.48
Entry-Level Wages

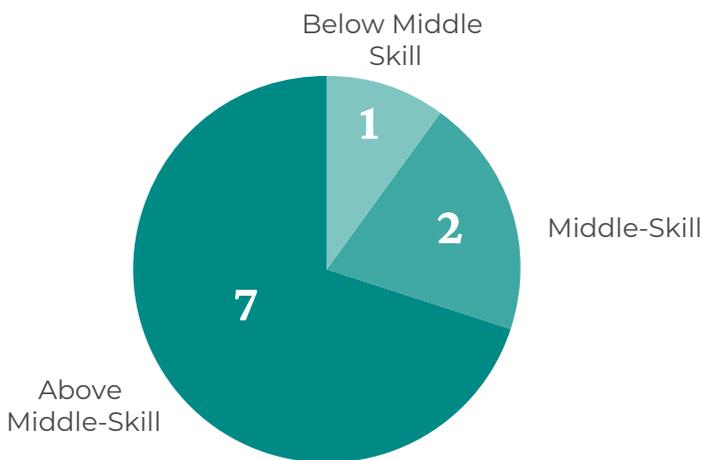
• Other/Unassigned



86 Total Occupations



10 High-Quality Occupations



9
Low-Risk of Automation



2
US News & World Report Best Job



70% – 100%
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance



35 – 43
Hours Worked



10
Met the SSS Living Wage (\$25.12)



10
Met the MIT Living Wage (\$28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

1,678
Jobs in 2024

127
Annual Openings

4%
5-Year % Change

\$26.89 – \$70.17
Entry-Level Wages

Public Safety

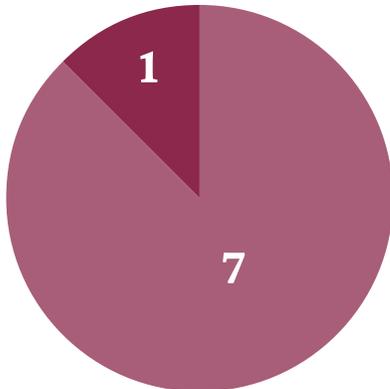


26 Total Occupations



8 High-Quality Occupations

Above Middle-Skill



Middle-Skill



7

Low-Risk of Automation



0

US News & World Report Best Job



86% – 100%
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance



40 – 54
Hours Worked



8

Met the SSS Living Wage (\$25.12)



8

Met the MIT Living Wage (\$28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

2,047
Jobs in 2024

178
Annual Openings

3%
5-Year % Change

\$29.52 – \$63.40
Entry-Level Wages

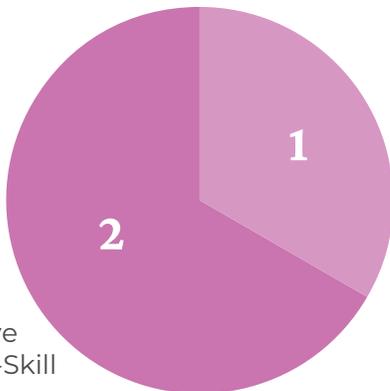
• Retail, Hospitality and Tourism



48 Total Occupations



3 High-Quality Occupations



Above Middle-Skill

Middle-Skill



3
Low-Risk of Automation



0
US News & World Report Best Job



85% – 100%
Employer Sponsored Health Insurance



31 – 42
Hours Worked



3
Met the SSS Living Wage (\$25.12)



2
Met the MIT Living Wage (\$28.94)

High-Quality Occupations Key Figures

305
Jobs in 2024

37
Annual Openings

8%
5-Year % Change

\$23.40 – \$27.31
Entry-Level Wages



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.

The SCC COE would like to acknowledge and thank **Juan Madrigal** for his work and contributions to this report.

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Important Disclaimers

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