

**Labor Market Assessment:
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics
(TOP 0948.00 Automotive Technology)
(CIP 47.0604 Automobile/Automotive Mechanics
Technology/Technician)**



FOR LABOR MARKET RESEARCH
INLAND EMPIRE/DESERT

Inland Empire/Desert Center of Excellence, March 2026

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Summary

Program LMI Endorsement	All LMI Criteria Met	Some LMI Criteria Met (Proceed with Caution)	LMI Criteria NOT Met
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Program LMI Endorsement Criteria		
Supply Gap	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Comments: There is projected to be 989 annual job openings throughout the Inland Empire/Desert region, which is more than the 876 annual average awards conferred by educational institutions over the last 3 years. Supply data includes both community college awards (354) and non-community college awards (522).</i>	
Living Wage	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Comments: This occupation has entry-level hourly wages \$1 below the IE/D living wage of 20.42.¹</i>	
Education	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Comments: This occupation has some college or postsecondary degree or associate degree as its typical entry-level education level, and more than 33% of all workers in the field (35%) have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education. See Exhibit 9 for more details.</i>	

The Inland Empire/ Desert (IE/D) Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (IE/D COE) reviewed the following occupations to prepare this report:

- Middle-Skill (typically require training/education above a HS diploma but less than a bachelor’s degree)
 - Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics (49-3023)

Summary of findings

Demand

- The number of jobs related to the assessed occupation is projected to increase 6% through 2029, with 989 annual job openings (new and replacement jobs).
- Hourly entry-level wages for all occupations are below living wage at the 25th percentile hourly wage estimated to be \$19.86 in IE/D.
- There were 2,189 online job postings from 473 employers over the past 12 months with the highest postings for automotive technicians and tire and lube technicians.
- Most job postings for target occupations require a high school diploma or equivalent (95%) followed by a bachelor’s degree (3%), associate degree (1%), and above a bachelor’s degree (1%).

Supply

- On average, there were 876 annual awards conferred by educational institutions over the last 3 years in related fields: 354 from community colleges and 522 from other institutions (e.g., 4-year universities, private schools).
- IE/D community college students that exited these programs in the 2022-23 academic year earned a median annual wage of \$35,876 (\$17.25 per hour).
- 35% of students that exited their program in 2022-23 reported that they are now earning a living wage.

¹ The [UW self-sufficiency standard](#) is currently used by the CO and other COEs, the self-sufficiency standard was last updated by UW in 2024. To provide an alternative perspective, the COE will provide an alternative living wage calculation from MIT in the analysis below as an additional reference point. MIT estimates, the living wage for an adult with no kids living in 2024 is \$26.30 in Riverside County and \$25.17 in San Bernadino County.

Introduction

California Community College Automotive Technology (TOP 0948.00) programs prepare students for employment in the servicing, maintenance, and diagnosis of malfunctions, and repair and overhaul of components and systems in automotive vehicles (Taxonomy of Programs, 2023). The knowledge, skills, and abilities trained by Automotive Technology programs lead to employment in automotive service technicians and mechanics.

Job Demand

In 2024, there were 10,439 jobs in automotive service technicians and mechanics in the IE/D region. Regional employment for this occupation group is projected to increase by 6% through 2029 with 989 job openings projected annually. Exhibit 1 displays the job count, five-year projected job growth, and job openings in the region.

Exhibit 1. Five-year projections for automotive service technicians and mechanics, IE/D Region, 2024-2029

Occupation	SOC	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024 - 2029 % Change	5-Yr Openings (New + Replacement Jobs)	Annual Openings (New + Replacement Jobs)
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	49-3023	10,439	11,060	6%	4,946	989

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.1

Job Postings

The following analysis for automotive service technicians and mechanics using online job posting data.

Important note: The data produced in this section were generated by leveraging online job posting data sourced from Lightcast, which is the labor market analytics software tool COEs use to produce these briefs. The job posting data is collected from scraping online job boards such as LinkedIn, Indeed, Glassdoor and many others. The process Lightcast uses to assemble this data does have some limitations due to methods that recruitment professionals sometimes use (e.g., posting one job to fill multiple positions). For example, the number of jobs posted is not necessarily the same as the number of job vacancies.² While not perfect, Lightcast leverages machine learning and other AI technologies to enrich, deduplicate and aggregate this information to make it a meaningful dataset.

Exhibit 2 displays the number of job ads posted for automotive service technicians and mechanics over the last 12 months and the median posting duration. Over the previous 12 months, there were 2,189 unique job postings for automotive service technicians and mechanics in the region from 473 employers.

Exhibit 2. Job ads and posting duration, IE/D Region, Mar 2025 – Feb 2026

Job Title	Job Ads	Median Posting Duration
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	2,189	27 days

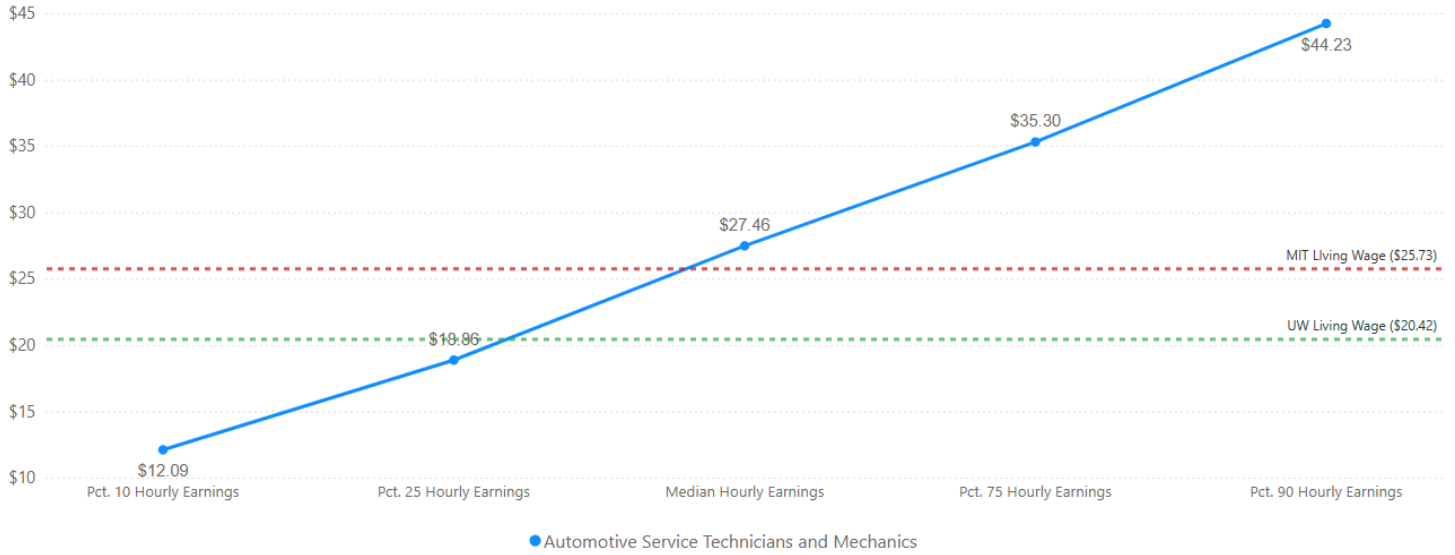
SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.1

² "Job Posting Analytics (JPA) Methodology." Lightcast Knowledge Base, <https://kb.lightcast.io/en/articles/6957446-job-posting-analytics-jpa-methodology>

Earnings

Exhibit 3 displays the hourly earnings for automotive service technicians and mechanics compared to both the UW Self-Sufficiency Standard for the IE/D of \$20.42³ and the MIT IE/D living wage of \$25.73.⁴

Exhibit 3. Projected hourly earnings by percentile, IE/D Region, 2024



SOURCE: 2026.1

All projected entry-level earnings (that is, the earnings of the lowest paid 25% of employees in the IE/D) were below the UW Self-Sufficiency Standard for the IE/D (see Exhibit 3). The occupation listed was also below the MIT living wage for an adult with no children (\$25.73) in projected entry-level earnings (see Exhibit 3).

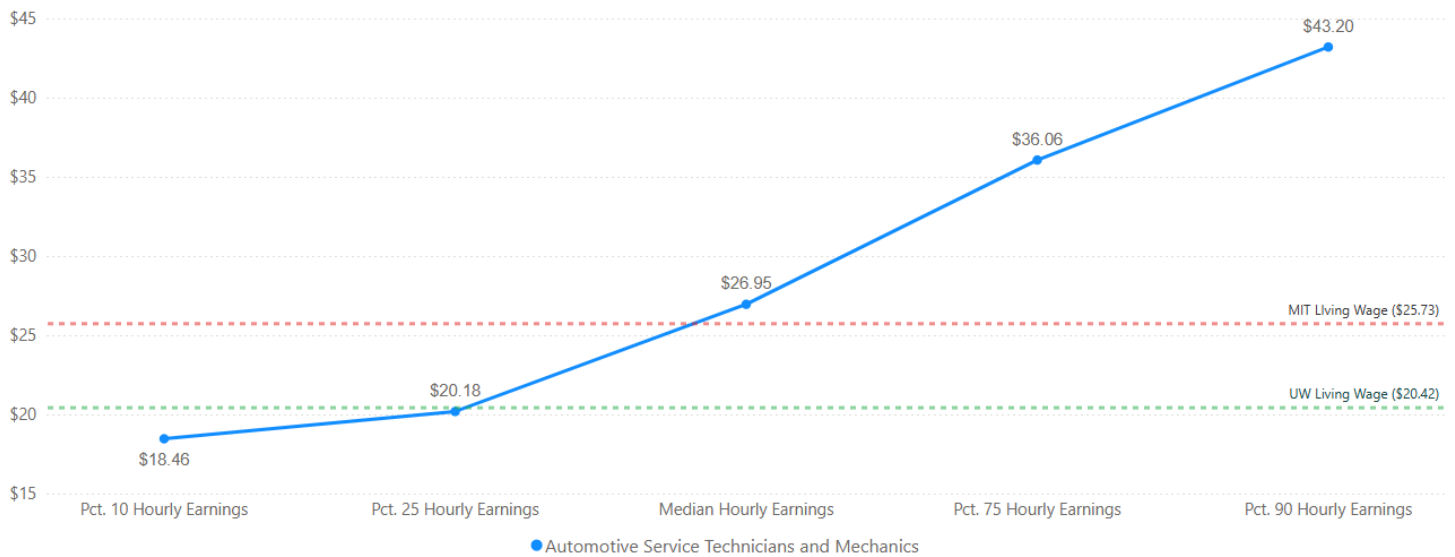
³ The [UW self-sufficiency standard](#) is currently used by the CO and other COEs, the self-sufficiency standard was last updated by UW in 2024. To provide an alternative perspective, the COE will provide an alternative living wage calculation from MIT in the analysis below as an additional reference point. MIT estimates, the living wage for an adult with no kids living in 2024 is \$26.30 in Riverside County and \$25.17 in San Bernadino County.

⁴ *ibid.*

Advertised Salary from Online Job Ads

Exhibit 4 displays the regional online advertised salaries for the automotive service technicians and mechanics over the last 12 months. The salary information of online job ad data suggests employers advertise entry level hourly wages of \$20.18 (estimated to be equal to an annual salary of \$41,974).

Exhibit 4. Hourly earnings of job postings by percentile, IE/D Region, Mar 2025 – Feb 2026



SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.1

Online Job Advertisements: top job titles, skills, education & work experience.

Exhibit 5 displays the job titles most frequently used in job postings for the automotive service technicians and mechanics over the last 12 months. Assessing the top advertised job titles may provide insight into the types of positions sought by employers.











Exhibit 5. Job titles most frequently used in job ads, IE/D Region, Mar 2025 – Feb 2026

Job Title	Unique Postings
Automotive Technicians	208
Tire and Lube Technicians	103
Automotive Mechanics	101
General Service Technicians	94
Service Technicians	81
Lube Technicians	73
Mechanics	73
Auto Care Center Managers	72
Automotive Technicians/Mechanics	66
Vehicle Specialists	62

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.1

Exhibit 6 displays the employers posting the most job ads for this occupational group during the last 12 months. Showing employer names can provide insight into where students may find employment after completing a program and may inform job development and other employer engagement targets for faculty and staff involved in related programs. Walmart and Pep Boys had the highest unique job posts for this occupational group in the last 12 months. Posting intensity is the ratio of total job posts to unique job posts which are deduplicated. A higher posting intensity can represent the level of effort and activity the organization is putting into hiring for that position. The following report comes directly from Lightcast’s Job Posting Analytics dashboard.

Exhibit 6. Employers posting the most job ads, IE/D Region, Mar 2025 – Feb 2026

Company	Total/Unique (Mar 2025 - Feb 2026)	Posting Intensity	Median Posting Duration
Walmart	259 / 129	2 : 1 	22 days
Pep Boys	274 / 110	2 : 1 	28 days
Bridgestone Corporation	156 / 63	2 : 1 	25 days
Valvoline	151 / 54	3 : 1 	18 days
Ramona Tire And Service Centers	206 / 50	4 : 1 	27 days
Goodyear	109 / 49	2 : 1 	22 days
Big Brand Tire & Service	109 / 40	3 : 1 	17 days
Indigo Auto Group	44 / 28	2 : 1 	37 days
Team Car Care West	80 / 27	3 : 1 	27 days
Cox Automotive	185 / 26	7 : 1 	28 days

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.1

Exhibit 7 displays the top common, specialized and computer skills that were included in the job postings over the last 12 months. Today’s demand is an important indicator of which skills employers are looking for in the current market. Analyzing skills from a historical perspective as well as projecting the future needs of employers may provide insight into how the job posting skills demand compares to the market as a whole. Rapidly growing skills are those that are increasing in demand at a faster rate than the market as a whole.⁵

Exhibit 7. Top 10 in-demand skills from employer job ads, IE/D Region, Mar 2025 – Feb 2026

Common skills	Total Postings	Skill Growth Relative to Market
Communication	755	Lagging
Customer Service	712	Stable
Detail Oriented	413	Stable
Management	331	Stable
Problem Solving	322	Growing
Troubleshooting (Problem Solving)	280	Growing
Sales	225	Stable
English Language	198	Growing
Computer Literacy	172	Lagging
Cleanliness	170	Growing

⁵ “What are Lightcast Skill Projects”, Lightcast Knowledge base, <https://kb.lightcast.io/en/articles/8496296-what-are-lightcast-skill-projections>

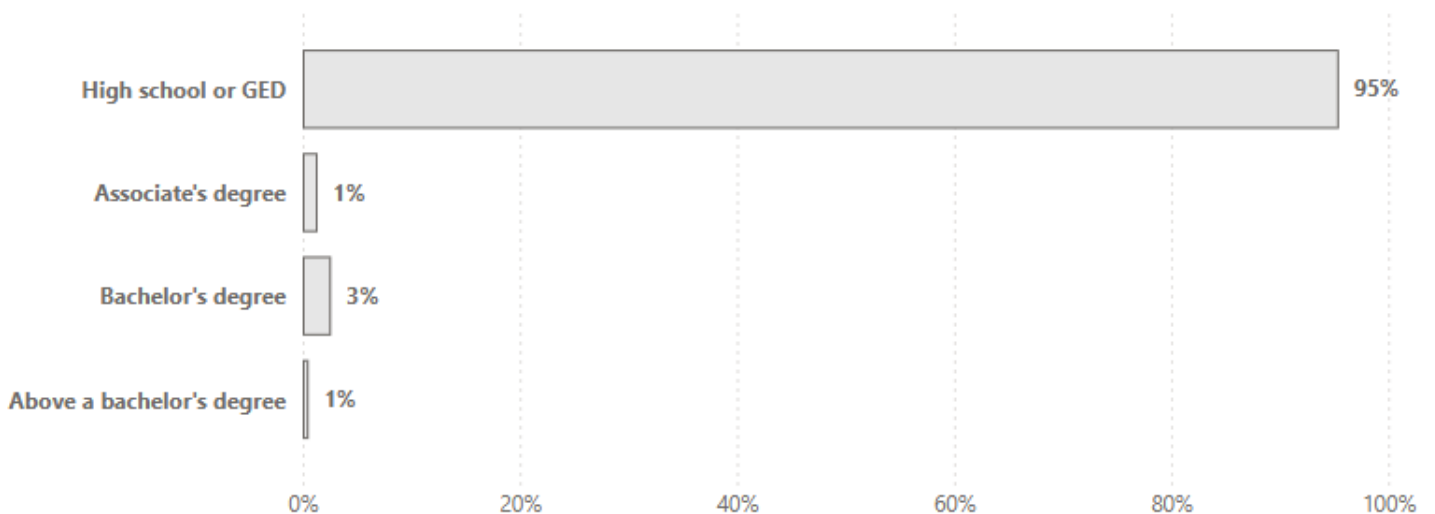
Specialized skills	Total Postings	Skill Growth Relative to Market
Automotive Services	606	Stable
Changing Oil	550	Stable
Brakes	386	Stable
Suspension (Vehicle)	386	Stable
Lifting Ability	362	Growing
Good Driving Record	313	Growing
Tires	310	Lagging
Oil and Gas	267	
Vehicle Inspection	265	Growing
Electrical Systems	236	Growing

Computer Skills	Total Postings	Skill Growth Relative to Market
Firefox	41	Stable
Microsoft Edge	41	Stable
Safari (Web Browser)	41	Growing
Web Browsers	41	Growing
Apache Struts	34	Lagging
Microsoft Excel	31	Growing
Microsoft Outlook	29	Rapidly Growing
Microsoft Office	19	Growing
Microsoft Word	19	Stable
Inventory Control Systems	17	Growing

SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.1

Exhibit 8 includes the minimum educational requirements from job postings for this occupational group with high school diploma or equivalent (95%) significantly greater than bachelor's degree (3%) or associate degree (1%) or above a bachelor's degree (1%).

Exhibit 8 Minimum educational requirements in job postings for this occupational group, IE/D Region, Mar 2025 – Feb 2026



SOURCE: LIGHTCAST 2026.1

For the assessed occupation, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) education attainment data in Exhibit 9 for current professionals in the occupations of interest indicates that 35% of workers have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education.

Exhibit 9 National-level Education Attainment for the Occupational Group

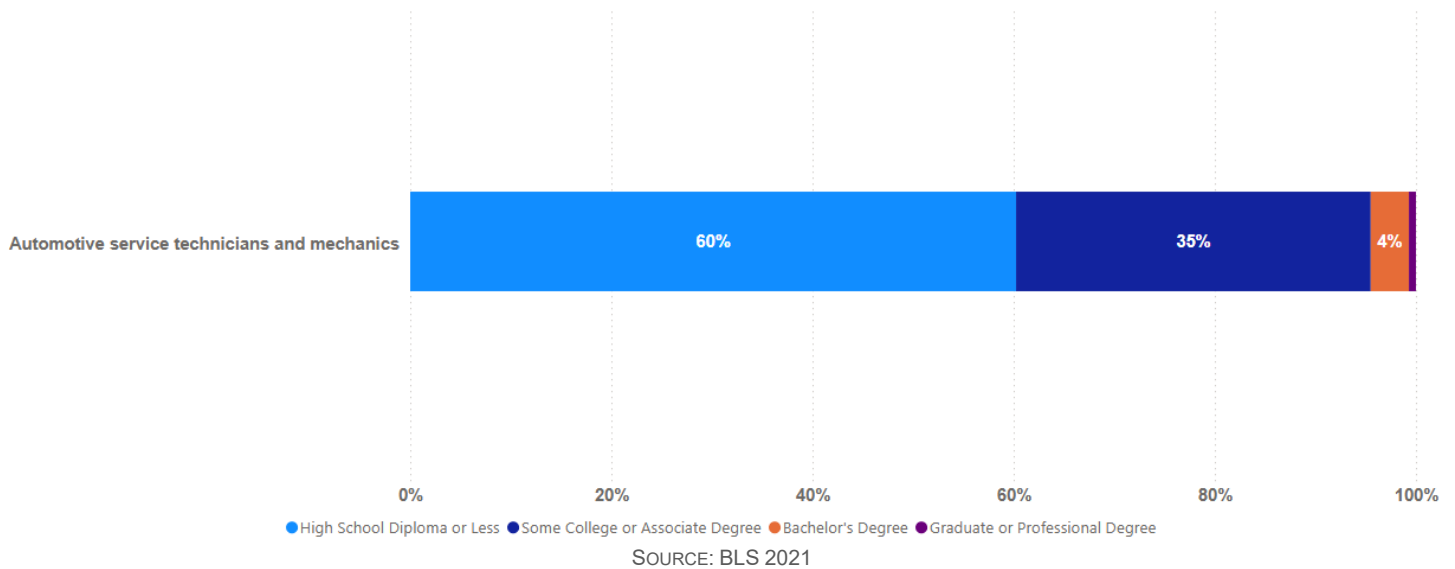
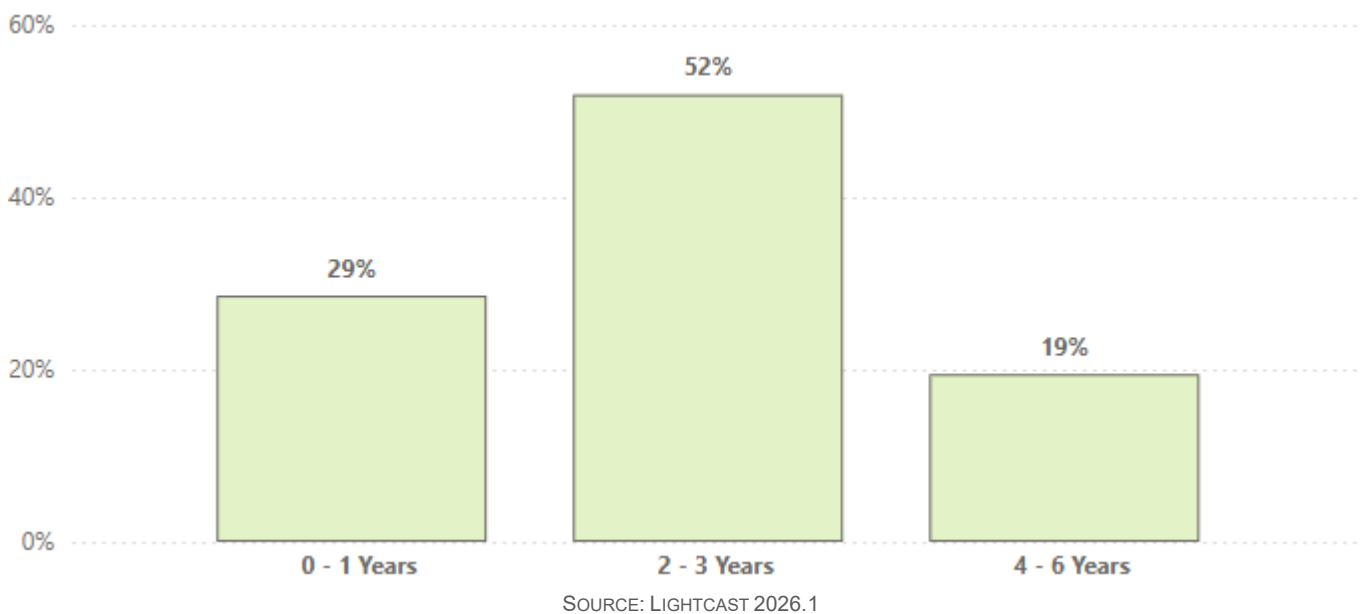


Exhibit 10 displays the work experience typically required from employer job ads for this occupational group. The majority (52%) of employers listing minimum experience requirements sought candidates with 2-3 years of previous work experience.

Exhibit 10 Work experience requirements, IE/D Region, Mar 2025 – Feb 2026



Student Completions and Program Outcomes

Exhibit 11 displays student completions for the Automotive Technology (TOP 0948.00) programs over the last three academic years (2021-2024). In the previous three academic years, 9 regional community colleges issued an average of 354 awards in relevant programs.

Exhibit 11 Annual average community college awards for Automotive Technology (TOP 0948.00), IE/D, 2021-2024

Top Code	Program	College	2022-2023 Awards	2023-2024 Awards	2024-2025 Awards	3-Year Award Average
0948.00	Automotive Technology	Barstow	10	28	26	21
0948.00	Automotive Technology	Chaffey	53	59	95	69
0948.00	Automotive Technology	College of the Desert	29	109	40	59
0948.00	Automotive Technology	Copper Mountain College	0	10	3	4
0948.00	Automotive Technology	Mt. San Jacinto	18	30	24	24
0948.00	Automotive Technology	Palo Verde	15	22	51	29
0948.00	Automotive Technology	Riverside	51	73	113	79
0948.00	Automotive Technology	San Bernardino	4	16	32	17
0948.00	Automotive Technology	Victor Valley	29	48	73	50
Total			209	395	457	354

SOURCE: MIS DATA MART

Non-Community College Supply

Exhibit 12 displays award completion data available for these IE/D non-community college programs: Automobile/Automotive Mechanics Technology/Technician (CIP 47.0604).

However, student award completion data was not found in the IE/D for other related non-community college programs: Motorsports Engineering Technology/Technician (CIP 15.0807), High Performance and Custom Engine Technician/Mechanic (CIP 47.0617), Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Technology/Technician (CIP 47.0612).

In the previous three academic years, 2 regional non-community college institutions issued an average of 522 awards in relevant programs.

Exhibit 12 Annual average non-community college awards for automotive service technicians and mechanic programs, IE/D, 2020-2023

CIP	Program	College	2021-2022 Awards	2022-2023 Awards	2023-2024 Awards	3-Year Award Average
47.0604	Automobile/Automotive Mechanics Technology/Technician	CET-Colton	24	7	12	14
47.0604	Automobile/Automotive Mechanics Technology/Technician	Universal Technical Institute of California Inc	469	516	539	508
Total			493	523	551	522

SOURCE: IPEDS

Strong Workforce Program Outcomes

California SWP program outcome data may provide useful insight into the likelihood of success for the proposed program. Community college student outcome information based on the selected TOP code and region is provided in Exhibit 13.

Exhibit 13 Automotive Technology strong workforce program outcomes, IE/D & California, AY 2022-23

Program Metric Title	Inland Empire	Statewide
Students	1,945	15,989
Earned 9+ Career Education Units	28%	37%
Completed Noncredit Workforce Preparation Milestone	52%	66%
Earned an Award: Degree or Cert or Attained Appren. Journey Level Status	8%	11%
Transferred to a Four-Year Institution: Four-Year Postsecondary Institution	1%	1%
Median Annual Earnings	\$35,876	\$38,572
Median Change in Earnings	40%	46%
Attained Living Wage	35%	33%

SOURCE: DATAVISTA

Appendix: Methodology

Exhibit 11 displays the average annual California Community College (CCC) awards conferred during the three academic years between 2022 and 2025 from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS) Data Mart. Awards are the combined total during the timeframe, divided by three in this case to calculate an annual average. This is done to minimize the effect of atypical variations that might be present in a single year.

Community college student outcome information is from DataVista and based on the selected TOP code and region. These metrics are based on records submitted to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS) by community colleges, which come from self-reported student information from CCC Apply and the National Student Clearinghouse. Employment and earnings metrics are sourced from California's Employment Development Department's Unemployment Insurance database. When available, outcomes for completers are reported to demonstrate the impact that earning a degree or certificate can have on employment and earnings. For more information on the types of students included for each metric, please see the web link for DataVista's Strong Workforce Program Metrics Data Element Dictionary in the Resources section (DataVista, 2025).

Appendix: References

Type of Data	Source
Occupational Projections, Wages, and Job Postings	Traditional labor market information data is sourced from Lightcast, a labor market analytics firm. Lightcast occupational employment data are based on final Lightcast industry data and final Lightcast staffing patterns. Wage estimates are based on Occupational Employment. https://lightcast.io/
Living Wage (UW)	Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. (2024). The self-sufficiency standard for California 2024. http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org/California . The COE refers to the Self-Sufficiency Wage as a "living wage." This calculation measures the income necessary for an individual of family to afford basic expenses. The data assesses the cost of housing, food, childcare, health care, transportation, and taxes. The living wage for one adult in San Bernardino County is \$20.07 per hour (\$42,392 annually). The living wage for one adult in Riverside County is \$20.76 per hour (\$43,854 annually). The average living wage to represent Inland Empire/Desert is \$20.42 per hour (\$43,123 annually).
Living Wage (MIT)	Glasmeier, A. K. (2024). <i>Living wage calculator</i> . Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Accessed on April 14, 2025, https://livingwage.mit.edu/states/06/locations The living wage is derived from MITs Living Wage Calculator, which measures the income necessary for an individual of family to afford basic expenses. The data assesses the cost of housing, food, childcare, health care, transportation, and taxes. For more information, see: https://livingwage.mit.edu/pages/methodology The living wage for one adult in San Bernardino County is \$25.17 per hour (\$52,353.60 annually). The living wage for one adult in Riverside County is \$26.30 per hour (\$54,704 annually). The average living wage to represent Inland Empire/Desert is \$25.74 per hour (53,539.20 annually)
Typical Education and Training Requirements, and Educational Attainment	The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provides information about education and training requirements for hundreds of occupations. BLS uses a system to assign categories for entry-level education, work experience in a related occupation, and typical on-the-job training to each occupation for which BLS publishes projections data. For more information, see https://www.bls.gov/emp/documentation/education/tech.htm
Educational Supply	The CCCCO Data Mart provides information about students, courses, student services, outcomes and faculty and staff. For more information, see: https://datamart.cccco.edu The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Integrated Data System (IPEDS) collects data on the

	<p>number of postsecondary awards earned (completions). For more information, see https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data/survey-components/7/completions</p>
<p>Student Metrics and Demographics</p>	<p>DataVista aims to provide up-to-date and useful information on students within the California Community Colleges and its Adult Education partners. DataVista is a modernization of the supporting architecture and visualization of metrics previously available on the LaunchBoard.</p> <p>DataVista is a collaboration between the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and WestEd, see: https://datavista.cccco.edu/data_views/swp_report</p>