



Public Safety



North (Greater Sacramento) Career & Training Pathways Profile

2026

Five-Year Outlook

9% sector growth

4,500+ annual job openings

2.7% of Greater Sacramento's jobs



FOR LABOR MARKET RESEARCH
NORTH FAR NORTH

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Introduction

Public Safety careers largely involve looking out for the public good and ensuring that people can lead safe, secure lives.

Core areas of specialization within the Public Safety sector are:

- Law enforcement
- Fire prevention and protection, including wildland firefighting
- Emergency medical services
- Administration of justice

Employment areas include municipal police departments and fire departments, Cal Fire, emergency response teams, and agencies tasked with criminal justice and rehabilitation, as well as local, state, and federal agencies responsible for enforcing regulations, such as U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

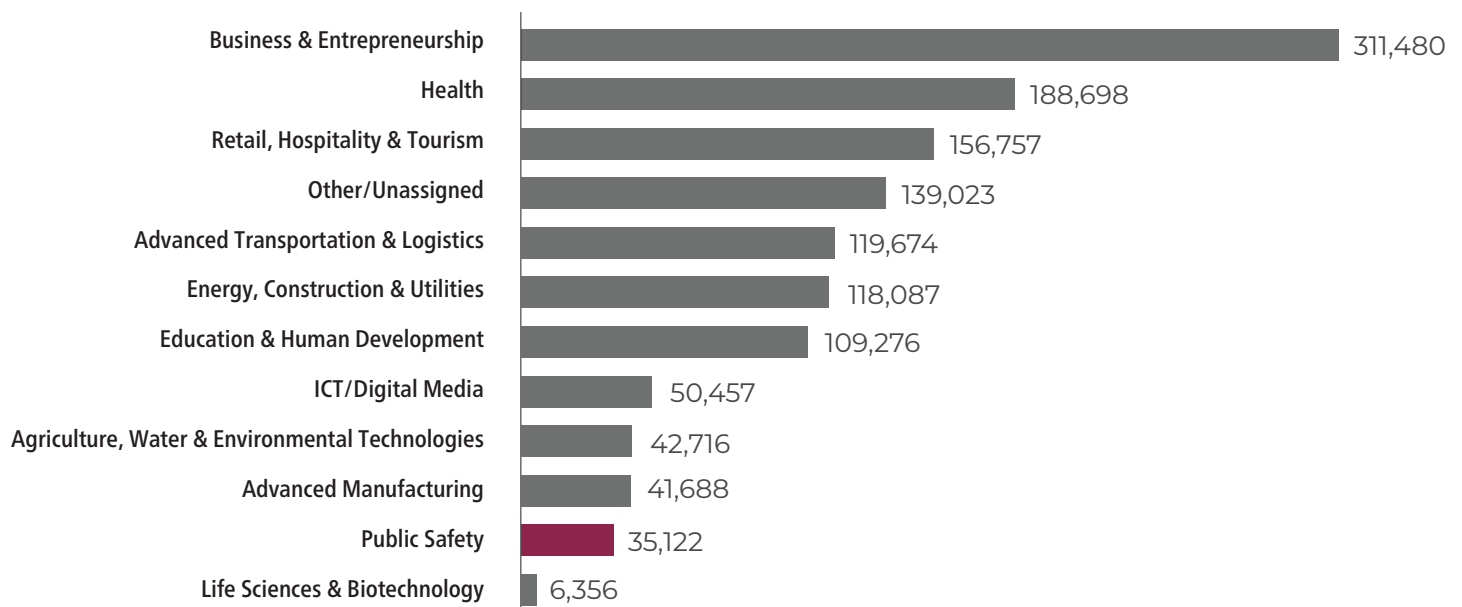
Greater Sacramento is home to the headquarters of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation along with Folsom State Prison and other correctional



and detention centers. Extensive recreation areas, including numerous national parks and forests, provide employment opportunities for firefighting occupations and ski patrollers.

Students who choose this path can make a direct impact in protecting lives, ensuring justice, and protecting the region's natural resources. Careers in this sector offer an opportunity for serving local communities, strong job stability, and advancement opportunities.

2024 Sector Employment



Note: The North subregion encompasses seven counties (El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba) and eight community colleges (American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake, Lake Tahoe, Sacramento City, Sierra, Woodland, and Yuba). The North Far North region spans 22 counties and 15 community colleges, stretching from the Greater Sacramento area, north to California's border with Oregon, and east to Nevada.

Sector Highlights

35,122
Jobs in 2024

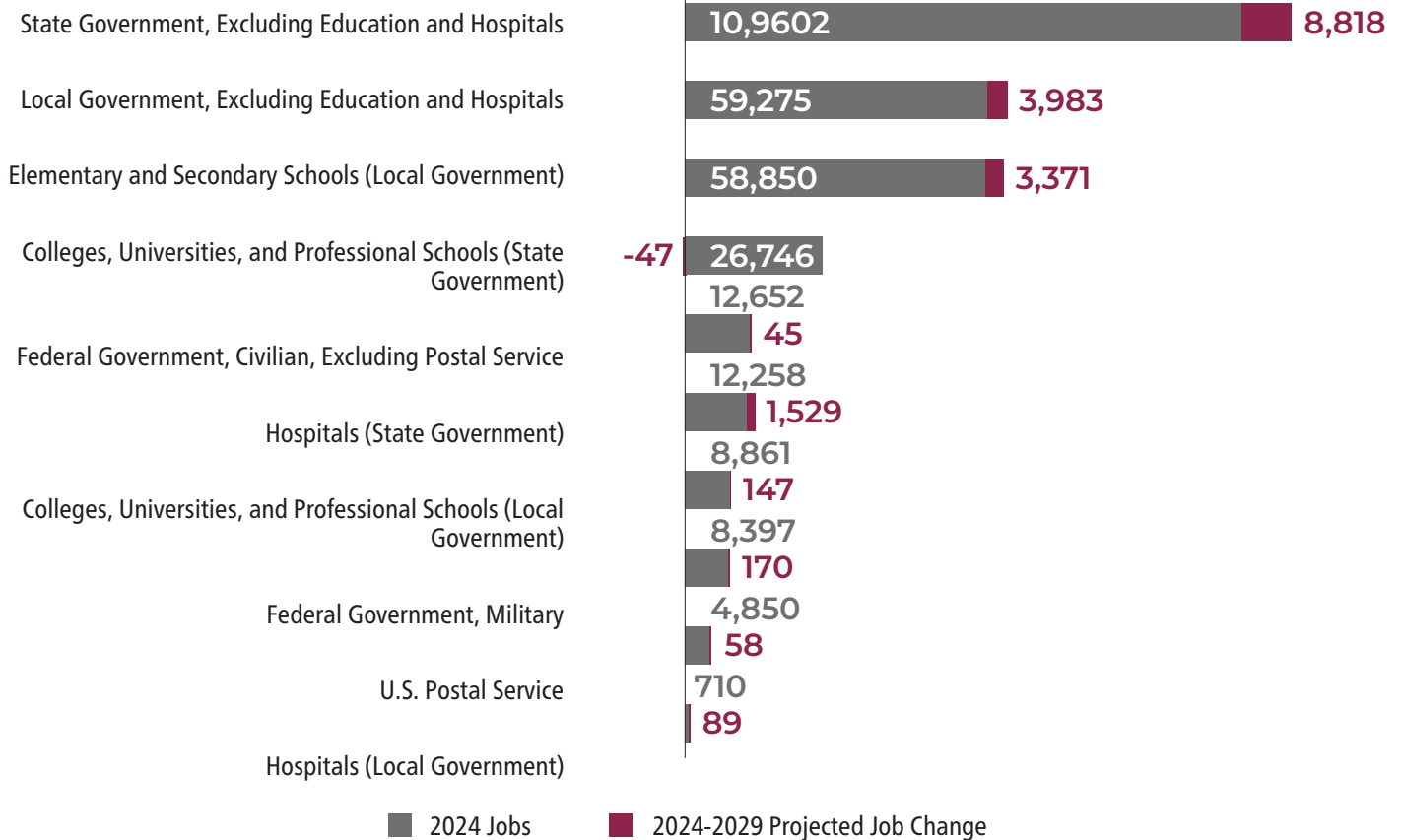
38,210
Projected Jobs in 2029

9%
Projected Job Growth,
2024-2029

3,088
New Jobs by 2029

2.7%
% of Greater Sacramento
Employment, 2024

Employment by Subsector



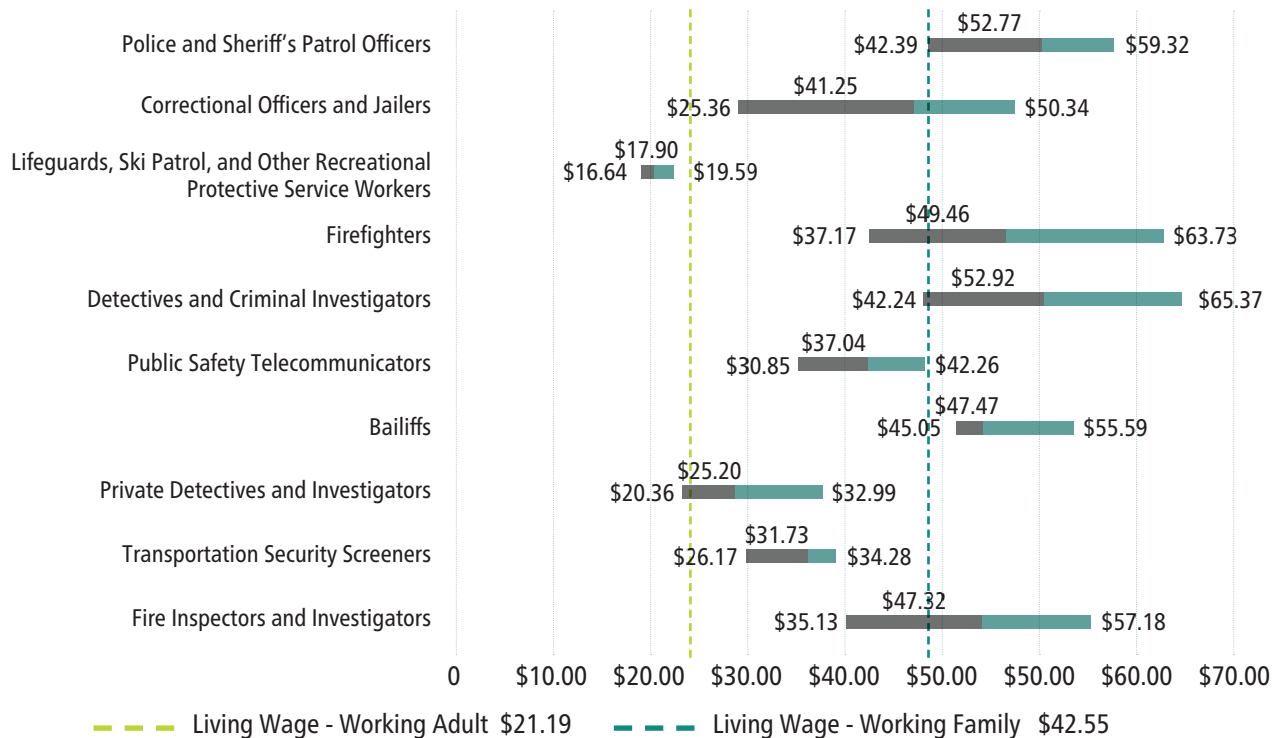
Note: The Public Safety sector has 13 distinct 6-digit NAICS codes. Contact the NFN COE for a complete listing of NAICS codes by sector.

Top Occupations

| Occupation | 2024 Jobs | 2024-2029 Projected Change | 2024-2029 Average Annual Openings | Typical Entry-Level Education |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers | 6,483 | 9% | 614 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Correctional Officers and Jailers | 2,545 | 16% | 324 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers | 952 | 11% | 309 | No formal educational credential |
| Firefighters | 2,541 | 9% | 238 | Postsecondary nondegree award |
| Detectives and Criminal Investigators | 1,710 | 7% | 153 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Public Safety Telecommunicators | 792 | 9% | 102 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Bailiffs | 378 | 6% | 50 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Private Detectives and Investigators | 489 | 3% | 46 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Transportation Security Screeners | 384 | 0% | 38 | High school diploma or equivalent |
| Fire Inspectors and Investigators | 80 | 11% | 8 | Postsecondary nondegree award |

Note: Jobs for the above occupations may not solely exist in this sector and may be found in other sectors that require related services. Projected change includes new job growth and replacements. Occupations with significant annual openings, active training programs in the subregion, wages at or close to the living wage, and training beyond a high school diploma but short of a bachelor's degree were prioritized for inclusion in the top middle-skill occupations.

Hourly Wages for Top Occupations



Note: The hourly wage ranges include the 25th percentile (entry-level), median, and 75th percentile (experienced) hourly earnings for workers employed in these occupations across the North (Greater Sacramento) subregion where the living wage in 2024 for a single working adult was \$21.19 and for a working family (defined as an adult and one infant) was \$42.55.



Job Posting Trends

Job posting trends examine all occupations assigned to the Public Safety sector, regardless of skill or education level in the Greater Sacramento subregion.

Unique Online Job Postings

3,806

(2% of Region's Postings)

Median Advertised Hourly Salary

\$22.89

(Regional Average \$30.77)

Median Posting Duration

23 days

(Regional Average 25 Days)

Posting Intensity

3:1

(Regional Average 2:1)

Note: Job postings count the number of online job postings advertised in the 7-county North (Greater Sacramento) subregion between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2025. COE has identified 27 occupations aligned with the Public Safety sector, and those SOC codes were used to generate the list of aligned job postings. Contact the NFN COE for a complete listing of SOC codes by sector. Postings are limited to in-state employers and exclude staffing companies. Posting Intensity is the ratio of total job postings to unique (de-duplicated) job postings. Job posting results are weighted toward occupations with the most postings, influencing the frequency of results for employers, job titles, skills, work experience, and education.



Top Employers

Employers with the Most Postings

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. State of California | 6. Blue Knight Security & Patrol |
| 2. American Security Programs | 7. San Juan Unified School District |
| 3. United States Department of Homeland Security | 8. Federal Bureau of Investigations |
| 4. City & County of San Francisco | 9. Walmart |
| 5. GardaWorld | 10. County of El Dorado |

Most In-Demand Skills

Specialized Skills

- Law Enforcement
- Emergency Response
- Loss Prevention
- Patrolling
- De-escalation Techniques

Soft Skills

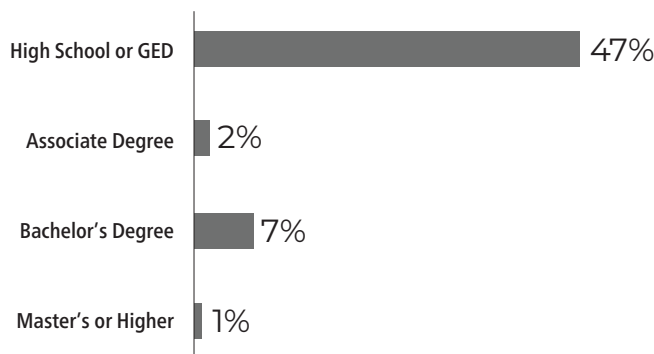
- Communication
- Customer Service
- Investigation
- Management
- Operations

Software and Technical Skills

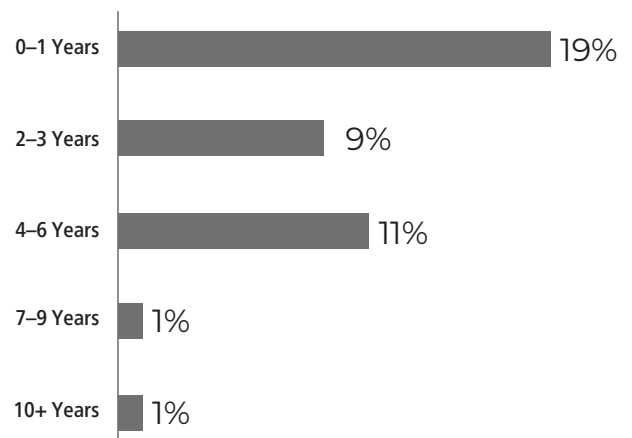
- Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook, Word, Access, PowerPoint)
- Spreadsheets
- JIRA
- Atlassian Confluence
- Database Systems

Education & Experience in Job Postings

Employer-Preferred Education



Employer-Preferred Work Experience



Note: The percentages might not equal 100% because not all employers include education or work experience in their job postings.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE Training Programs



| American River College | Cosumnes River College | Folsom Lake College | Lake Tahoe College | Sacramento City College | Sierra College | Woodland Community College | Yuba College |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Administration of Justice | Fire Technology | Administration of Justice | Criminal Justice | Administration of Justice | Administration of Justice | Criminal Justice Studies | Administration of Justice |
| POST Basic Law Enforcement Academy | Firefighter Suppression Specialist | | Administration of Justice | | Reserve Peace Officer | Administration of Justice | Law Enforcement |
| Fire Technology | Wildland Fire Technology | | Fire Science | | Administration of Justice - Corrections | | Basic Police Academy |
| Firefighter Recruit Academy | | | Fire Officer | | Fire Technology | | Reserve Officer Level |
| | | | Fire Academy | | Fire Company Officer | | Fire Technology |
| | | | | | | | |

Note: Due to discrepancies in the California Community Colleges Curriculum Inventory (COCI) and how Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) codes are categorized by sector, this list may not include all related or currently available training programs.



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Sources

- Lightcast 2025.4 - QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed
- Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research Occupation Crosswalk
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Data Mart
- California Community Colleges Curriculum Inventory (COCI)

