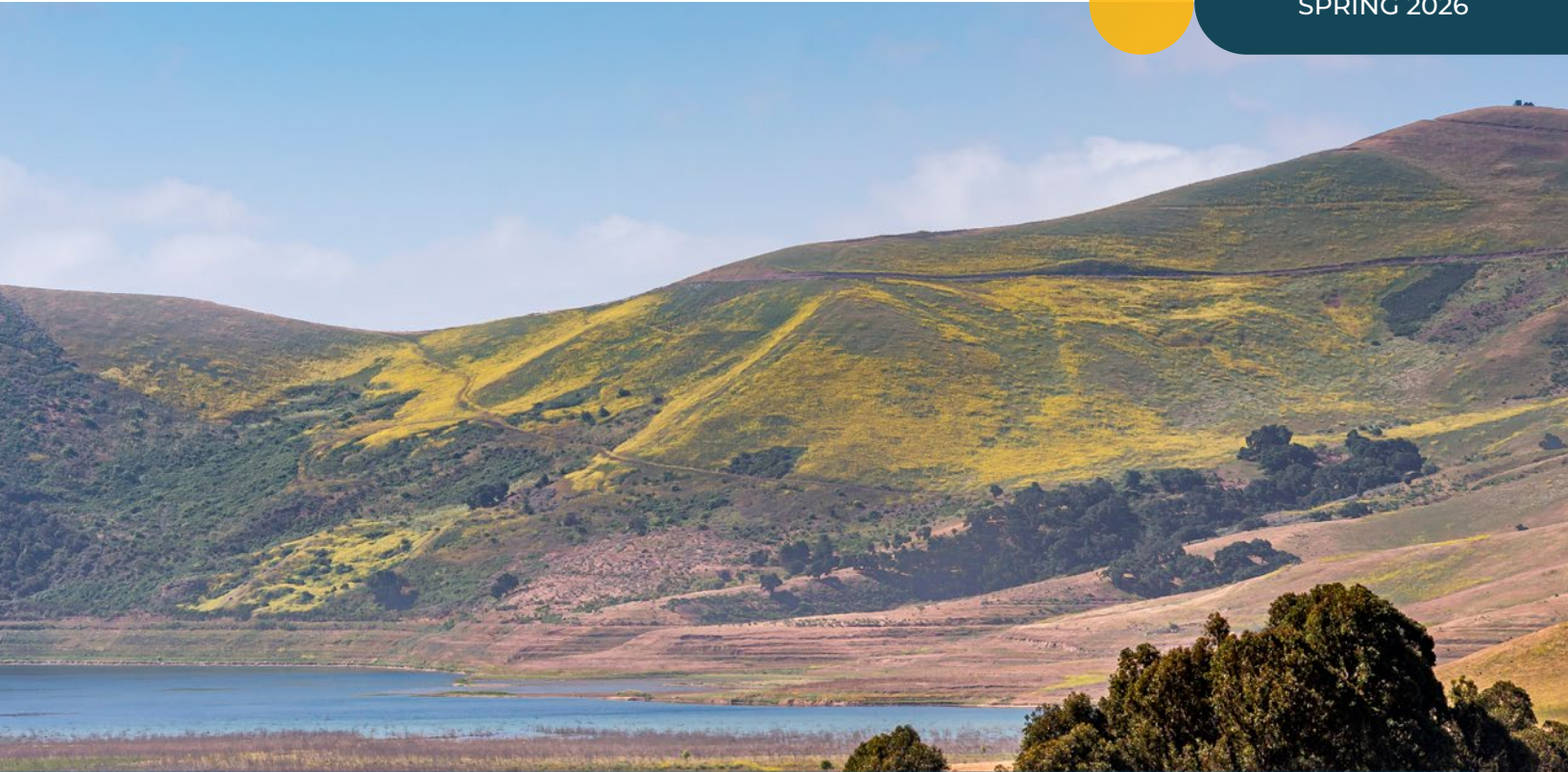




FOR LABOR MARKET RESEARCH
SOUTH CENTRAL COAST

SPRING 2026



District Profile:

Allan Hancock Joint Community College District



POWERED BY



California
Community
Colleges

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• Executive Summary

This District Profile was prepared by the South Central Coast Center of Excellence (SCC COE) to provide a demographic overview and labor market analysis of the Allan Hancock Joint Community College District (AHJCCD) service area. This District Profile supports Allan Hancock College, which AHJCCD operates, in aligning educational programs with middle-skill occupations. The following points highlight key findings related to the SCC COE's analysis of the AHJCCD service area.

Demographic Findings

- Within the service area, there are 236,586 residents. Hispanic or Latino individuals account for the majority of the population (63%), and most residents are within either the Pre-Career/College Age (24 or Younger) (39%) or Later Career/Retirement (50 and Older) (30%) age groups.
- Approximately 47% of the service area population have completed a high school diploma or less as their highest level of education, 31% have completed some college or an associate degree, and 15% have completed a bachelor's degree.
- The median household income within the service area is \$89,606, the second lowest of all districts in the SCC Region. Approximately 14% of residents live below the poverty line, the second highest poverty rate of all districts in the SCC Region.

Demand and Supply Findings



Demand

- There are 109,142 jobs throughout the service area. The 714 occupations analyzed in this report accounted for 99% of all jobs (108,079) and are projected to grow 6% through 2029.
- There is projected to be 15,057 annual job openings throughout the service area. Of those, 34% (5,069) are for middle-skill occupations.
- Sectors with the highest demand for middle-skill occupations are Health (1,287 annual openings); Business and Entrepreneurship (1,150); and Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies (843).



Supply

- From 2021 to 2024, AHJCCD conferred an annual average of 1,460 career education awards.
- The highest number of awards were conferred in Health programs (414 awards), followed by Business and Entrepreneurship (266), and Public Safety (218).
- The Taxonomy of Program (TOP) codes that had the highest number of awards conferred are Computer Information Systems (129 awards), Business Administration (105), Administration of Justice (70), Licensed Vocational Nursing (65), and Emergency Medical Services (65).
- Life Sciences and Biotechnology is the only sector for which AHJCCD does not offer programs.



Labor Gap

- Across all occupations and programs, the demand of 15,057 annual job openings and supply of 1,460 awards indicates there is an overall labor gap of 13,597 awards.
- When considering only middle-skill occupations, the gap is smaller (3,609 awards) but still significant.
- Sectors with the largest labor gaps for middle-skill occupations are Business and Entrepreneurship; Health; and Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, CONTINUED

Allan Hancock Joint Community College District: Labor Market Fast Facts

Labor Market Demand Data Points



714

Occupations



108,079

2024 Jobs



15,057

Annual Openings



6,649

Five-Year Change



6%

Five-Year % Change



\$23.11

Entry-Level Wages

Labor Market Supply Data Points



72

Programs
(TOP Codes)



1,460

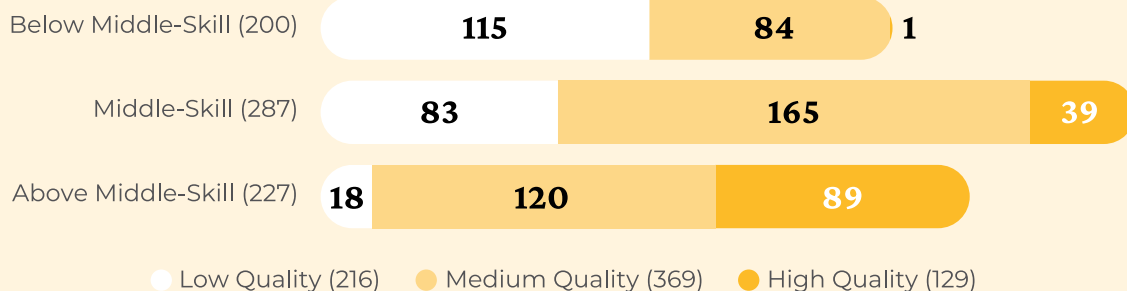
Awards



**Computer
Information
Systems**

Top Program

Job Quality by Occupational Skill Level



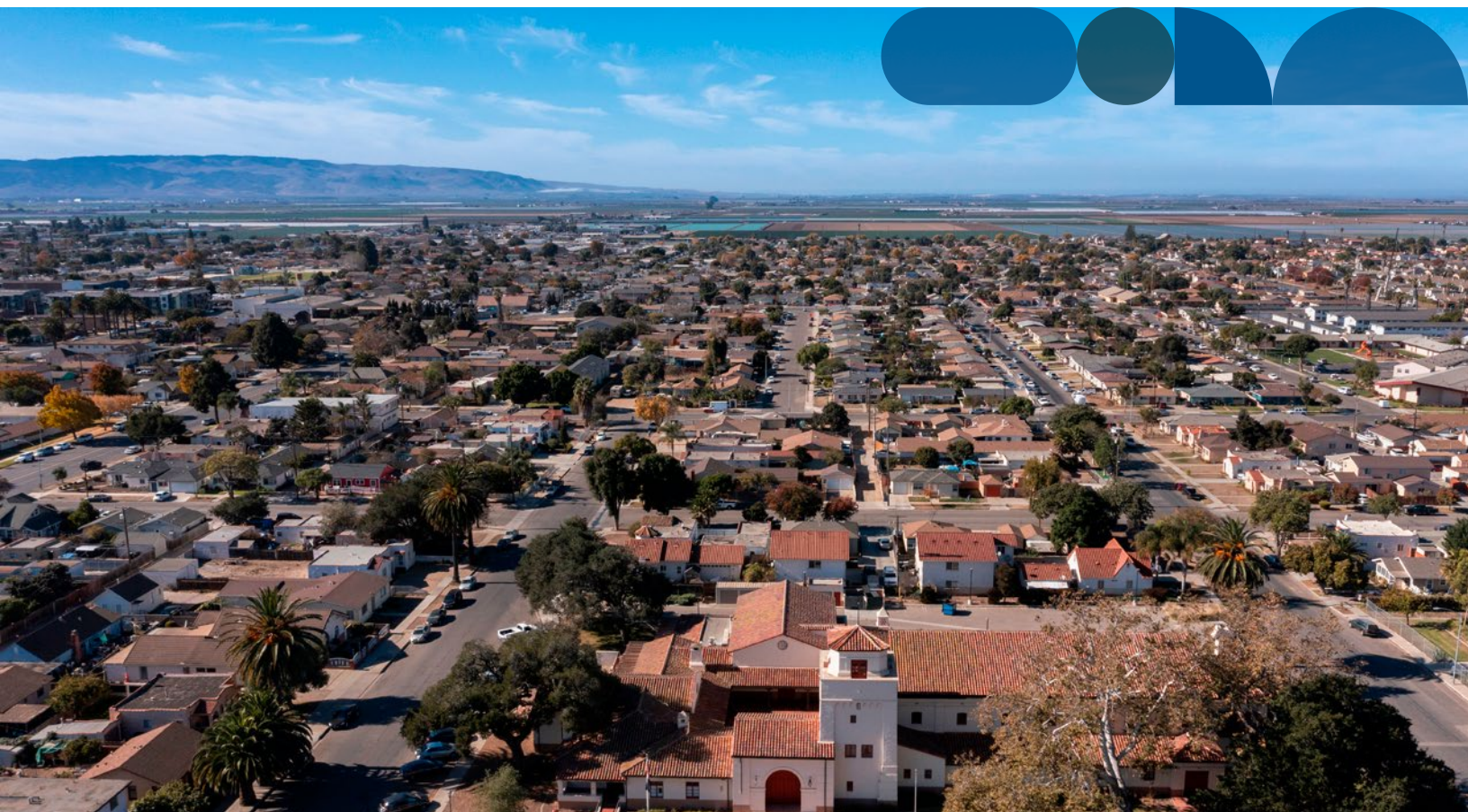
• Introduction

The South Central Coast Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (SCC COE) has produced six community college District Profiles to assist with collaborative efforts to enhance career education programs and facilitate alignment with labor market opportunities specific to each community college district's service area in the SCC Region, which encompasses four counties stretching from Northern Los Angeles County to San Luis Obispo County. These District Profiles present an assessment of labor market demand and the supply of community college awards (degrees and certificates) from programs aligned with the 12 sectors designated by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO).

District Overview

The Allan Hancock Joint Community College District (AHJCCD) serves as a hub for accessible, high-quality education along California's South Central Coast. The district operates **Allan Hancock College**, which provides a broad spectrum of programs that support transfer pathways, career technical education, workforce development, and student support services.

Strategically located in Santa Maria, with additional educational centers serving Lompoc and the Santa Ynez Valley, the District connects students to opportunities throughout the Central Coast region while serving the unique educational and workforce needs of the local community. Through strong partnerships with industry, K-12 schools, and community organizations, AHJCCD advances student success, economic growth, and lifelong learning across the region. The AHJCCD service area is one of the most affordable across the entire Central Coast and is shaped by a strong agricultural economy. Though the median household income is the second lowest across all districts in the South Central Coast Region, affordable home prices attract a young, diverse population. The AHJCCD service area population is the youngest and has the highest rates of limited English proficiency and single-parent households across all South Central Coast Region districts.

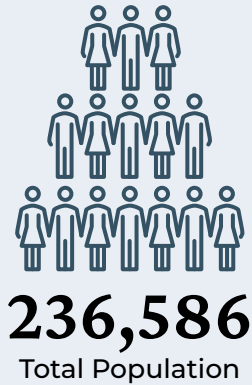


INTRODUCTION, CONTINUED

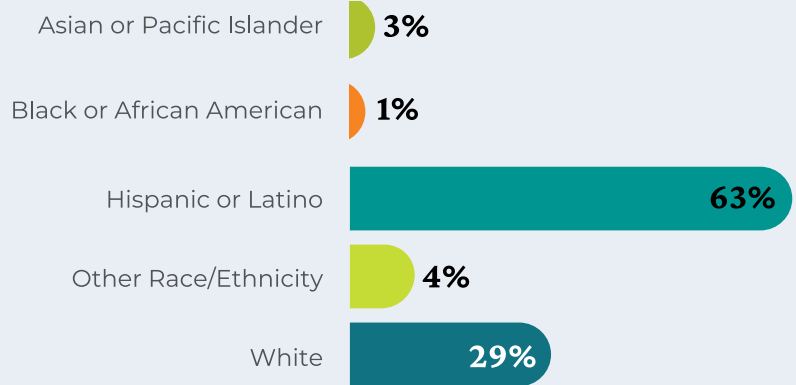
Allan Hancock Joint Community College District: Demographics Fast Facts

The AHJCCD service area is home to over 236,000 residents. Of those, 63% are Hispanic or Latino and 29% are white.

Population

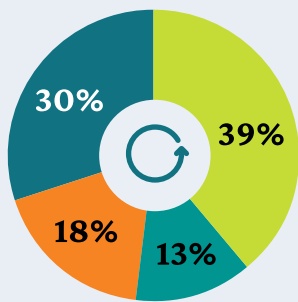


Race and Ethnicity



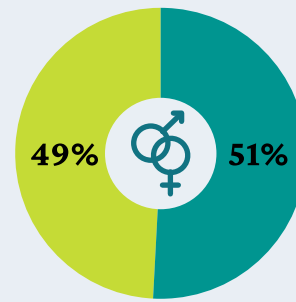
Over one-third (39%) of AHJCCD service area residents are Pre-Career/College Age (24 or Younger) and nearly one-third (30%) are Later Career/Retirement (50 and Older) age. The AHJCCD service area is split evenly between women and men.

Age



- Pre-Career/College Age (24 or Younger)
- Early Career (25 to 34)
- Mid-Career (35 to 49)
- Later Career/Retirement (50 and Older)

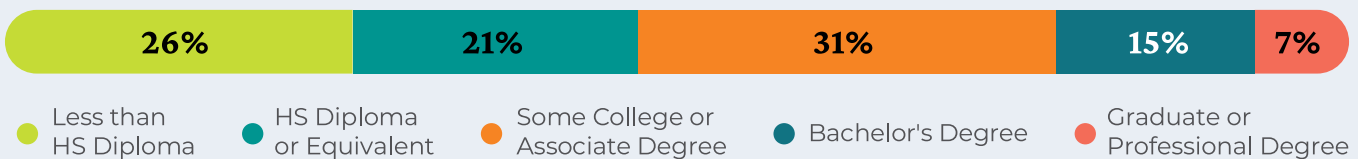
Sex



- Female
- Male

Approximately 31% of AHJCCD service area residents have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education, followed by 15% that have completed a bachelor's degree. Approximately 47% of residents have completed a high school diploma or less, which is the highest percentage when compared to all SCC Districts.

Educational Attainment



- Less than HS Diploma
- HS Diploma or Equivalent
- Some College or Associate Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Graduate or Professional Degree

INTRODUCTION, CONTINUED

Allan Hancock Joint Community College District: Demographics Fast Facts

Examining data related to Special Populations shows that 12% of AHJCCD service area residents have a disability. Less than 1% of youth are foster youth and approximately 6% of the adult population are veterans.

Special Populations



12%

People with Disabilities



0.1%

Foster Youth



6%

Veterans

When examining household characteristics, 9% of households have limited English proficiency, representing the highest share among districts in the SCC Region. Additionally, 15% of households are single-parent households, which is also the highest percentage in the region.

English Proficiency



9%

Limited English Proficient Households

Single Parent Households



15%

Single Parent Households

The median household income in the AHJCCD service area is \$89,606 and 14% of the population is below the poverty line. These figures represent the second lowest median household income and the second highest poverty rate of all districts in the SCC Region. Throughout the service area, 42% of women and 31% of men are not in the labor force.

Economic Stability Indicators



\$89,606

Median Household
Income



14%

Below Poverty Line



42%

Women Not in
the Labor Force



31%

Men Not in
the Labor Force

• Labor Market Analysis

High, Medium, and Low Quality Occupations

This analysis considers the job quality level of occupations using nine criteria that combine traditional labor market indicators with specific measures of job quality. The methodology builds on the framework introduced in the *South Central Coast Labor Market Landscape*¹⁰ and *High-Quality Occupations Profile: Santa Barbara County*¹¹ reports, which were published by the SCC COE in Fall 2025 and focused exclusively on identifying High-Quality occupations within the region. The analysis in this District Profile expands the framework to classify occupations across three tiers — High, Medium, and Low Quality — providing a more comprehensive view of the district's service area labor market.



Based on the SCC COE's Job Quality methodology and key indicators, the criteria used to classify occupations include:

- **Job Growth and Demand** — traditional labor market indicators such as total employment, projected five-year percentage growth, and the number of annual job openings are used to assess the demand for each occupation.
- **Wages** — wage analysis compares entry-level earnings to established living-wage thresholds, including the Self-Sufficiency Standard (SSS) and the MIT Living Wage for the county in which each district is located.
- **Benefits** — job quality is also measured by the availability of employer-sponsored benefits, specifically the percentage of workers in an occupation who receive employer-provided health insurance.
- **Automation Risk** — occupations are evaluated based on their susceptibility to automation, with greater weight given to jobs with a lower risk of automation.
- **Hours Worked** — typical hours worked are examined to understand the stability and structure of employment within each occupation.
- **Reputation and Ranking** — the analysis also considers whether an occupation is recognized in national rankings such as the U.S. News & World Report Best Jobs list.



LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS, CONTINUED

Together, these indicators provide a multidimensional view of job quality, identifying not only High-Quality jobs but also occupations that may offer moderate or lower levels of job quality across the district service area.

For comparison purposes, each profile provides a breakdown showing the share of middle-skill jobs (those typically requiring a community college education), alongside the share of below middle-skill jobs (those typically requiring a high school diploma or less) and above-middle-skill jobs (those typically requiring a bachelor's degree or higher). The analysis presents the occupational titles and Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes assigned to the 796 occupations catalogued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Of the 796 occupations, complete data was available for 714 occupations. Also provided are the Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) codes associated with each community college program that align with these occupations.

A Well-Equipped Future Workforce

By highlighting the district's alignment with local economic needs, this report aims to provide a comprehensive look at how the district supports the prosperity of students, as well as the Santa Barbara County and South Central Coast regional economies. While regional reports produced by the SCC COE offer valuable insights for broad decision making, this series is designed to go a step further by focusing on individual districts and the counties which they serve.

Findings from this District Profile can inform future investments by community college districts and support strategies implemented through the Strong Workforce Program (SWP) Regional Plan, ensuring that students gain the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in promising careers.

LABOR MARKET SPOTLIGHT

A Young, Multilingual Population

Nearly 39% of AHJCCD service area residents are age 24 or younger, the highest percentage of all SCC Region districts, reflecting a large pipeline of future students and workers entering the local economy. At the same time, the district has the highest percentage of limited English proficient households in the SCC Region (9%) and the highest percentage of adults that have completed a high school diploma or less (47%). These demographic trends underscore the importance of accessible education, bilingual student services, workforce preparation programs, adult learner support, and career pathways that support multilingual and first-generation communities. Together, these characteristics position AHJCCD as a critical institution for expanding educational attainment, workforce mobility, and economic opportunity throughout the Central Coast region.



LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS, CONTINUED

Occupational Landscape

The district service area accounted for 109,142 jobs in 2024, representing 10% of all jobs in the South Central Coast Region (nearly 1.05 million jobs).¹² The number of jobs in the district service area is expected to grow 6% through 2029, resulting in 15,180 projected annual openings due to new job growth and replacement needs. Approximately 32% of the 796 occupations have entry-level wages that exceed the Self-Sufficiency Standard (\$29.80 for Santa Barbara County), while 24% of occupations have entry-level wages that exceed the 2025 MIT Living Wage (\$30.98 for Santa Barbara County).

District Labor Market Key Facts



109,142

Number of Jobs
in 2024



+6,649

5-Year Change
in Jobs through 2029



6%

5-Year Percent
Change in Jobs



15,180

Annual Openings
(2024–2029)



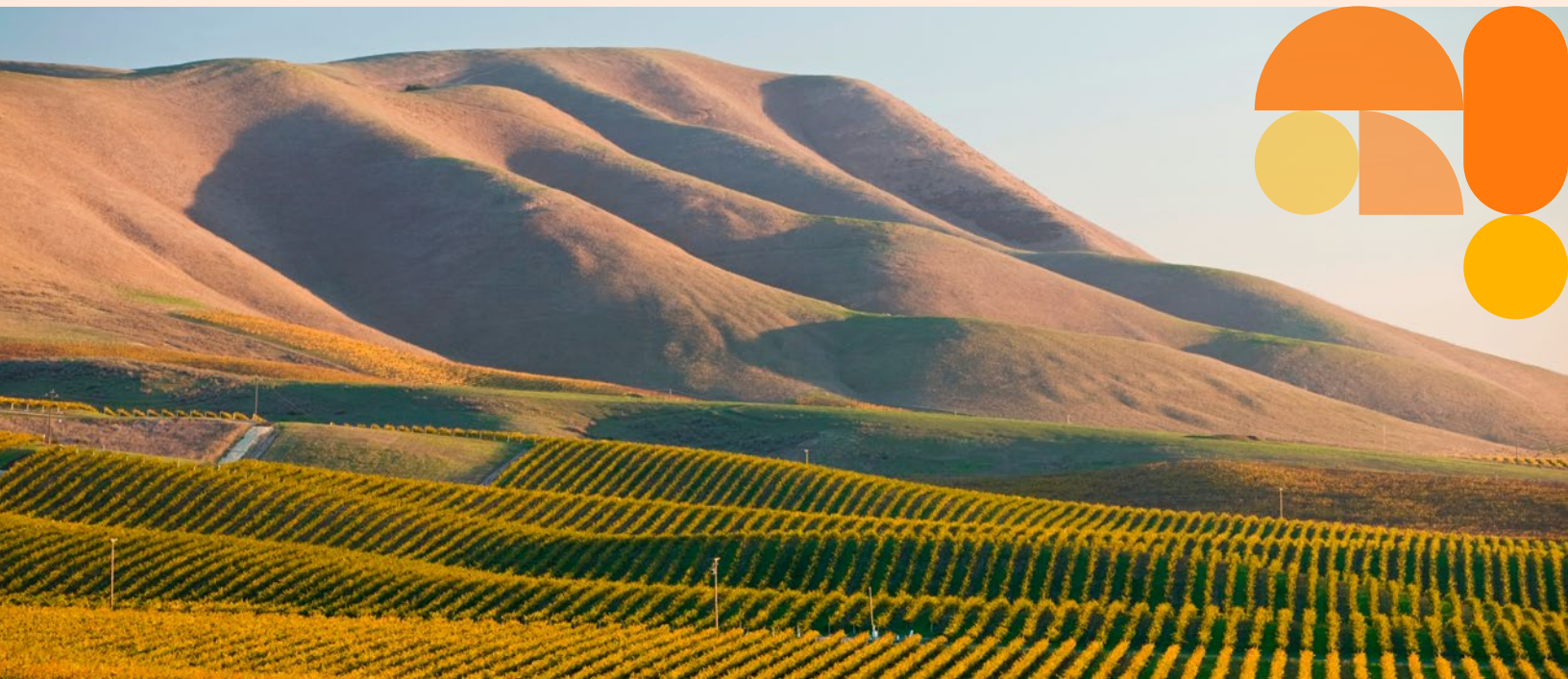
253 of 796

Occupations meet or exceed
the SSS Living Wage
(\$29.80/hour)



235 of 796

Occupations meet or exceed
the MIT Living Wage
(\$30.98/hour)

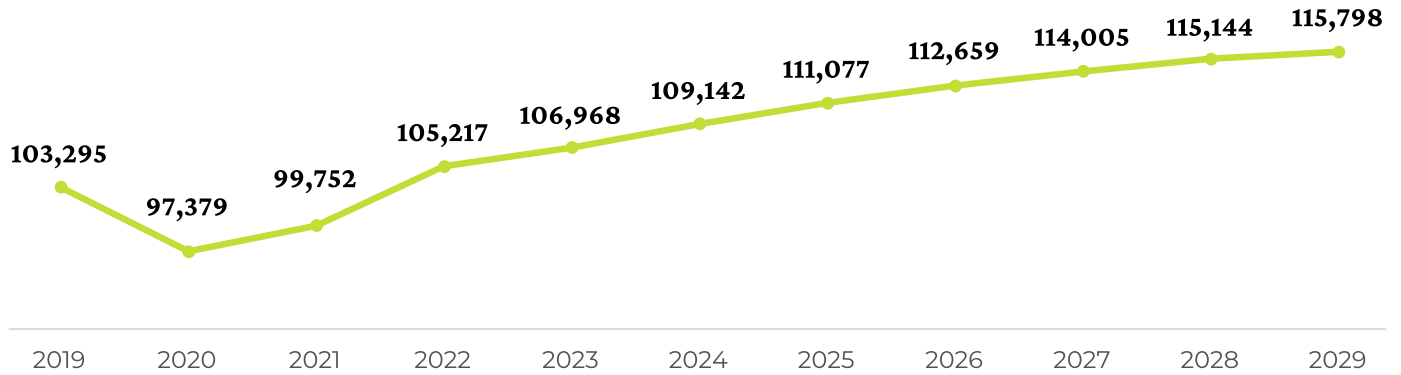


LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS, CONTINUED

Historical and Projected Employment

Between 2019 and 2024, employment in the district service area increased from 103,295 jobs to 109,142 jobs, as shown in Exhibit 1. Employment is projected to increase to 115,798 jobs by 2029, representing the addition of approximately 6,649 jobs from 2024 to 2029 and more than 12,500 jobs between 2019 and 2029.

Exhibit 1: Historical Employment and Projected Occupational Demand in the District Service Area, 2019–2029



Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed

Jobs by Quality Level

Of the 796 occupations classified by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, complete data was available for 714 occupations. Of those occupations, 52% (369) are Medium Quality, 30% (216) are Low Quality, and 18% (129) are High Quality, as shown in Exhibit 2. These 714 occupations accounted for 99% of all jobs (108,089 jobs) in the district service area. In 2024, the 369 Medium-Quality occupations accounted for 72% (78,303 jobs) of the workforce in the district service area, as shown in Exhibit 3.

Exhibit 2: Number of Occupations by Job Quality Level

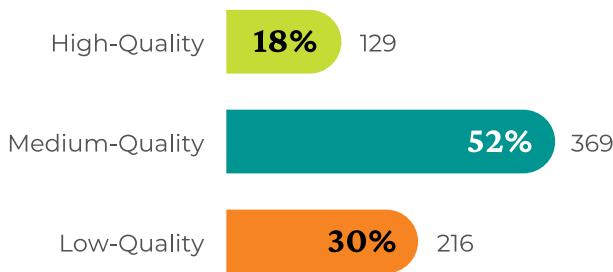
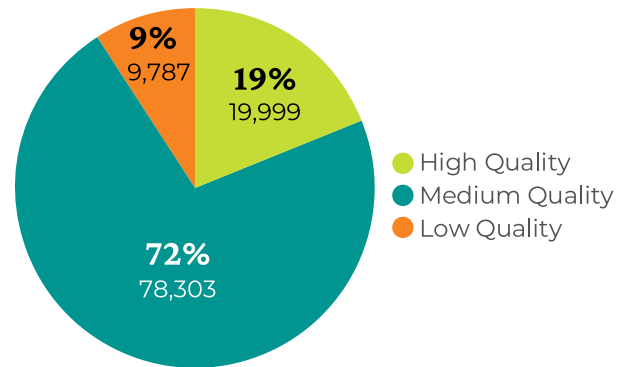
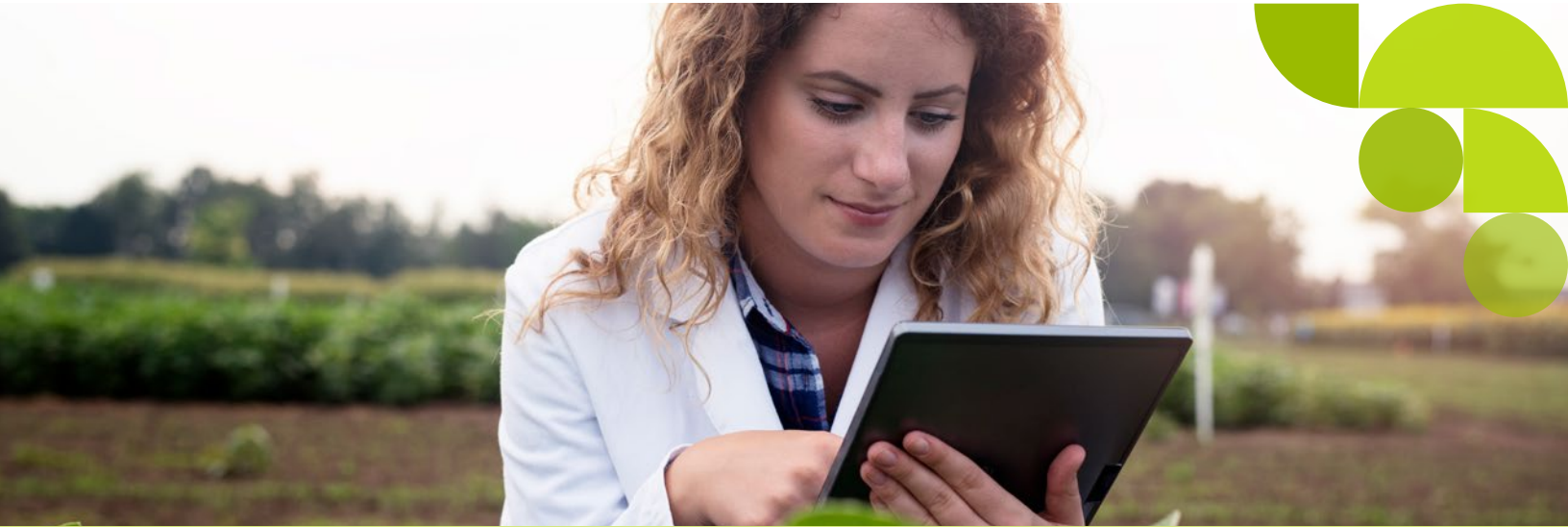


Exhibit 3: Share of 2024 Jobs by Quality Level



Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed

LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS, CONTINUED



High-Quality Occupations



129
High-Quality
Occupations



19%
of 714 Occupations
Analyzed

1
Below Middle-Skill

39
Middle-Skill

89
Above Middle-Skill



19,999
Number of
2024 Jobs



1,682
Annual Openings
(2024–2029)



19%
Share of District Service
Area's Total Jobs
in 2024

Across the service area, there are 129 High-Quality occupations, representing 19% of the 714 occupations analyzed in this report. Collectively, these 129 occupations accounted for 19,999 jobs in 2024.

These occupations comprised 19% of all jobs in 2024 and are projected to have 1,682 annual openings each year through 2029. These occupations represent significant opportunities for workforce development, as they are in-demand, provide good wages and benefits, and are typically more stable compared to other occupations. This focused analysis provides a roadmap for addressing the labor market needs of the district service area, thereby contributing to subregional and regional competitiveness and the prosperity of students entering employment from community college programs.

LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS, CONTINUED



Medium-Quality Occupations



369
Medium-Quality
Occupations



52%
of 714 Occupations
Analyzed

84
Below Middle-Skill

165
Middle-Skill

120
Above Middle-Skill



78,303
Number of
2024 Jobs



11,726
Annual Openings
(2024–2029)

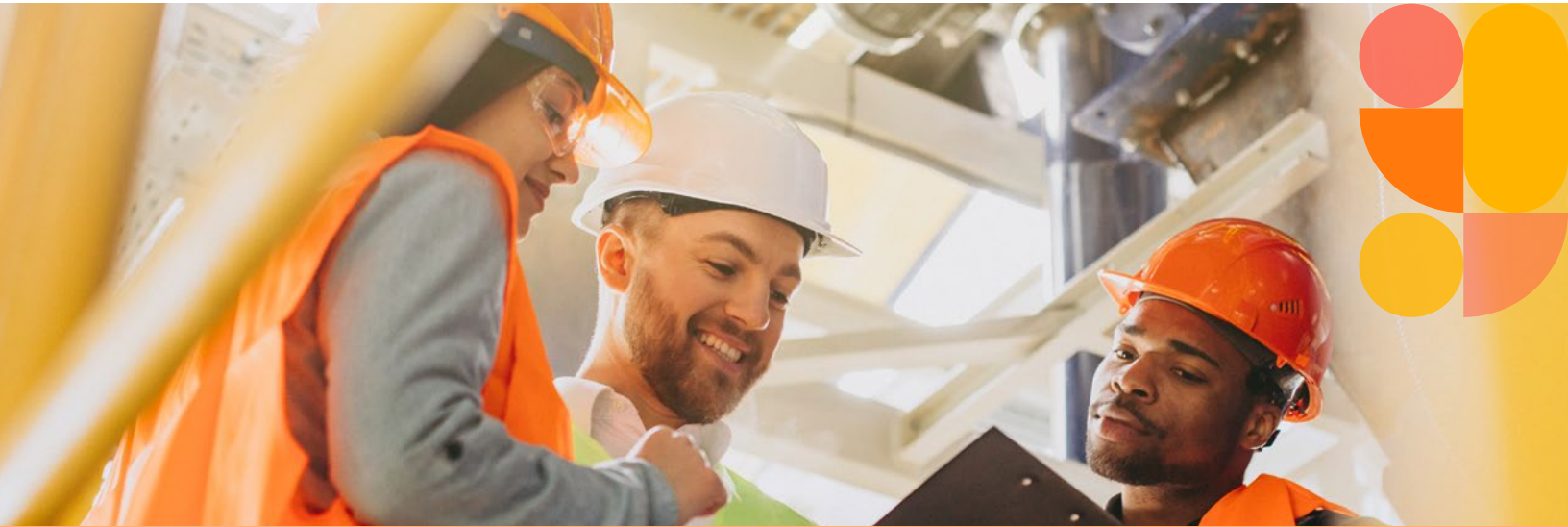


72%
Share of District Service
Area's Total Jobs
in 2024

Across the service area, there are 369 Medium-Quality occupations, representing 52% of the 714 occupations analyzed in this report. Collectively, these 369 occupations accounted for 78,303 jobs in 2024.

These occupations comprise 72% of all jobs in 2024 and are projected to have 11,726 annual openings each year through 2029. These Medium-Quality jobs often provide steady employment but with mixed outcomes in terms of wages and demand. While they may not offer the same level of compensation or upward economic mobility as High-Quality occupations, many of these jobs serve as important entry points into the labor market or as stable employment options for workers with a variety of education and experience.

LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS, CONTINUED



Low-Quality Occupations



216
Low-Quality
Occupations



30%
of 714 Occupations
Analyzed

115
Below Middle-Skill

83
Middle-Skill

18
Above Middle-Skill



9,787
Number of
2024 Jobs



1,633
Annual Openings
(2024–2029)



9%
Share of District Service
Area's Total Jobs
in 2024

Across the service area, there are 216 Low-Quality occupations, representing 30% of the 714 occupations analyzed in this report. Collectively, these 216 occupations accounted for 9,787 jobs in 2024, making them an important part of the district service area workforce.

Low-Quality occupations remain an essential component of the regional labor market. In 2024, these occupations accounted for 9% of all jobs and are projected to have 1,633 annual job openings through 2029. While many of these occupations do not meet the wage or job quality thresholds used in this report's methodology, they play a critical role in supporting economic activity and providing employment opportunities across industries. Examining these occupations helps identify workforce demand and informs strategies for workforce development, enabling community colleges and regional partners to better understand why certain occupations are considered Low Quality. Additionally, regional stakeholders can examine these occupations to develop strategies to improve job quality or build pathways to higher-quality positions.

LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS, CONTINUED

Occupations by CCCC Sector

The 714 occupations analyzed in this report span the 12 CCCC sectors, with the Health sector accounting for 96 occupations, the most of any sector. The Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies sector has the highest number of 2024 jobs (25,115), the highest projected change in jobs (3,192), and is projected to grow the fastest (13%) across all sectors. This sector is also projected to have the highest number of annual job openings (4,444). ICT/Digital Media has the highest entry-level hourly wages (\$42.00), but the second-lowest number of jobs (2,080). Exhibit 4 shows the sectors represented by these 714 occupations, sorted alphabetically by sector.

Exhibit 4: Current Employment, Projected Occupational Demand, and Entry-Level Wages of Occupations by CCCC Sector

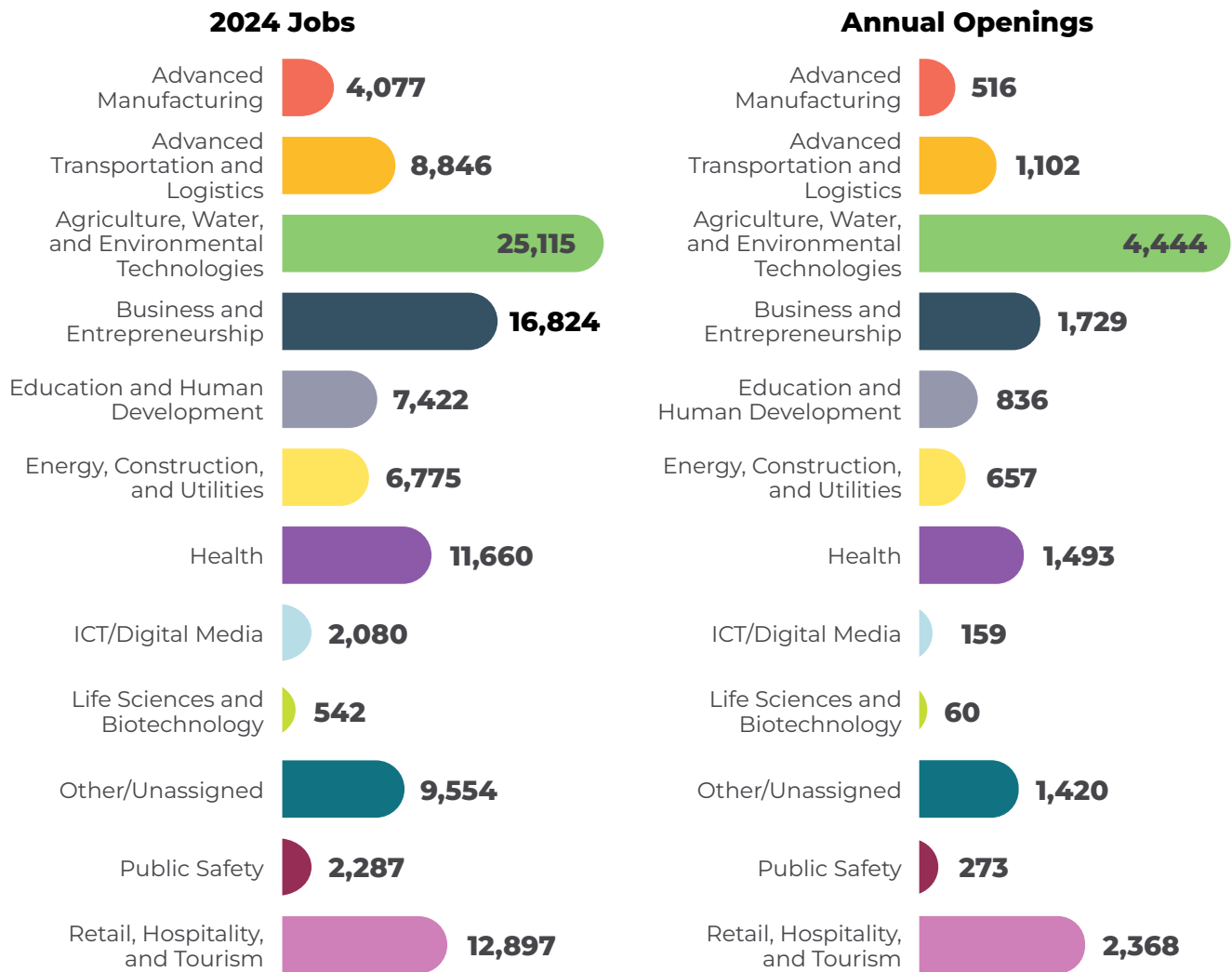
Sector	# of SOC	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	5-Year Change	5-Year % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
Advanced Manufacturing	74	4,077	4,294	217	5%	516	\$23.17
Advanced Transportation and Logistics	58	8,846	9,144	298	3%	1,102	\$21.60
Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies	38	25,115	28,307	3,192	13%	4,444	\$16.43
Business and Entrepreneurship	95	16,824	17,256	432	3%	1,729	\$27.81
Education and Human Development	35	7,422	7,729	307	4%	836	\$26.06
Energy, Construction, and Utilities	94	6,775	7,087	312	5%	657	\$26.49
Health	96	11,660	12,731	1,071	9%	1,493	\$29.79
ICT/Digital Media	48	2,080	2,127	47	2%	159	\$42.00
Life Sciences and Biotechnology	7	542	562	20	4%	60	\$24.45
Other/Unassigned	95	9,554	9,673	119	1%	1,420	\$21.25
Public Safety	25	2,287	2,286	(1)	(0.04%)	273	\$34.48
Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism	49	12,897	13,532	635	5%	2,368	\$17.73
Total	714	108,079	114,728	6,649	6%	15,057	\$23.11

Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed

Exhibit 5 shows the 2024 job counts and projected annual job openings in the district service area for each of the 12 CCCC sectors. Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies has the highest number of 2024 jobs (25,115) and the highest number of job openings (4,444). The Business and Entrepreneurship sector has the second-highest number of 2024 jobs (16,824) and third-highest job openings (1,729). Conversely, Life Sciences and Biotechnology has the lowest number of jobs and annual job openings.

LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS, CONTINUED

Exhibit 5: Total Number of 2024 Jobs and Annual Openings by CCCCO Sector in the District Service Area



Supply and Demand by CCCCO Sector

In this section, the number of educational awards (degrees and certificates) conferred by AHJCCD, otherwise known as supply, is compared to the annual openings (demand) of the 714 occupations analyzed in this report by sector. Examining the supply in relation to demand is crucial to understanding labor gaps and areas of opportunity that can be addressed by educational programs throughout the local and greater region. Labor gaps are defined as the difference between supply and demand. Additionally, important consideration should be given to the number of annual openings and the labor gap for middle-skill occupations (those for which community colleges primarily train).

Though supply data reflects only community college awards and does not include completions from non-community college institutions, AHJCCD is one of the main higher education and training providers in the area. Within the AHJCCD service area and across all sectors, there is an overall labor gap of 13,597 awards. When considering only middle-skill occupations, the gap is smaller (3,609) but still significant. These labor gaps represent opportunities for AHJCCD to modify or expand existing programs, or create new programs, to meet local labor market needs. Exhibit 6 shows the breakdown of annual openings compared to supply by sector.

LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS, CONTINUED

The Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies sector has the highest number of annual job openings (4,444). Of those, 19% (843) are for middle-skill occupations. Though AHJCCD conferred 75 awards in this sector, there is both an overall labor gap and a gap for middle-skill occupations.

Although the Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism sector has the second-highest number of annual job openings (2,368), approximately 87% (2,071) are for below middle-skill occupations, indicating most openings in this sector typically do not require higher education.

The Business and Entrepreneurship sector has the third-highest number of annual job openings (1,729). Of those, 67% (1,150) are for middle-skill occupations. However, the supply for this sector is only 266 awards, presenting a substantial labor market gap.

The remainder of this report includes sector-level summary pages that examine the total number of jobs, annual openings, and community college supply for each sector, followed by an analysis of labor market data specifically for middle-skill occupations.

Exhibit 6: Annual Openings by Occupational Skill Level and AHJCCD Awards Conferred by CCCC Sector

Sector	Below Middle-Skill Annual Openings	Middle-Skill Annual Openings	Above Middle-Skill Annual Openings	Total Annual Openings	AHJCCD 3-Year Average (2021–2024)
Advanced Manufacturing	351	129	36	516	54
Advanced Transportation and Logistics	711	384	7	1,102	63
Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies	3,578	843	23	4,444	75
Business and Entrepreneurship	93	1,150	486	1,729	266
Education and Human Development	31	352	453	836	63
Energy, Construction, and Utilities	317	285	55	657	14
Health	19	1,287	187	1,493	414
ICT/Digital Media	20	38	101	159	194
Life Sciences and Biotechnology	-	53	7	60	0
Other/Unassigned	1,199	99	122	1,420	47
Public Safety	88	177	8	273	218
Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism	2,071	272	25	2,368	52
Total	8,478	5,069	1,510	15,057	1,460

Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed and California Community College Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems Data Mart. A dash (-) indicates there were no openings or programs in this sector.

Advanced Manufacturing

Labor Market Demand Data Points



74

Occupations



4,077

2024 Jobs



516

Annual Openings



217

Five-Year Change



5%

Five-Year % Change



\$23.17

Entry-Level Wages

Labor Market Supply Data Points



4

Programs
(TOP Codes)



54

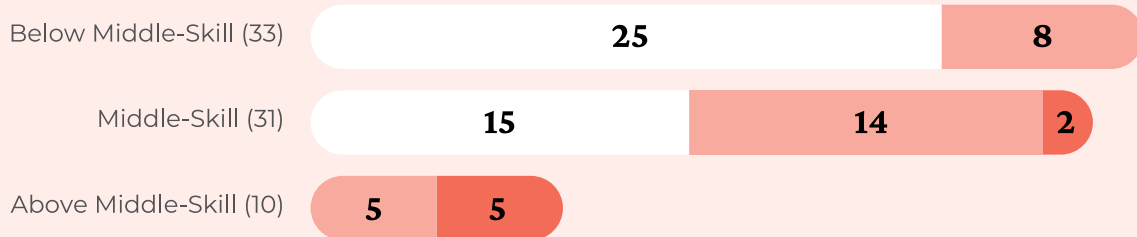
Awards
(2021-2024)



Welding Technology

Top Program

Job Quality by Occupational Skill Level



● Low Quality (40) ● Medium Quality (27) ● High Quality (7)

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING, CONTINUED

Demand

In 2024, there were 4,077 jobs across 74 Advanced Manufacturing occupations in the district service area. Of those, 29% (1,196) are for middle-skill occupations. Of the 516 projected annual openings, 25% (129) are for middle-skill occupations. Exhibit 7 shows the number of jobs, annual openings, five-year employment change, and entry-level hourly wage for the 31 middle-skill occupations within the sector by job quality level.

Exhibit 7: Current Employment, Projected Occupational Demand, and Entry-Level Wages for Advanced Manufacturing Middle-Skill Occupations

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
High-Quality Jobs						
Engineering Technologists and Technicians, Except Drafters, All Other (17-3029)	47	46	(1)	(2%)	4	\$31.27
Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians (17-3023)	37	35	(2)	(5%)	3	\$38.26
Medium-Quality Jobs						
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers (51-1011)	280	296	16	6%	30	\$27.11
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers (51-4121)	140	151	11	8%	17	\$22.44
Industrial Machinery Mechanics (49-9041)	139	161	22	16%	16	\$24.73
Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders (51-9011)	58	72	14	24%	9	\$22.68
Machinists (51-4041)	76	73	(3)	(4%)	8	\$21.24
Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical Assemblers, Except Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers (51-2028)	60	58	(2)	(3%)	7	\$19.01
Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Commercial and Industrial Equipment (49-2094)	37	35	(2)	(5%)	3	\$32.57
Electrical and Electronics Drafters (17-3012)	9	8	(1)	(11%)	1	\$37.13
Electro-Mechanical and Mechatronics Technologists and Technicians (17-3024)	6	5	(1)	(17%)	1	\$34.89
Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians (17-3026)	15	15	0	0%	1	\$22.19
Calibration Technologists and Technicians (17-3028)	5	6	1	20%	1	\$32.03
Chemical Plant and System Operators (51-8091)	7	8	1	14%	1	\$32.82
Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Programmers (51-9162)	6	5	(1)	(17%)	1	\$31.09
Occupational Health and Safety Technicians (19-5012)	2	2	0	0%	0	\$23.78
Low-Quality Jobs						
Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators (51-9161)	68	60	(8)	(12%)	6	\$22.77
Maintenance Workers, Machinery (49-9043)	25	28	3	12%	3	\$27.21

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING, CONTINUED

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
Printing Press Operators (51-5112)	41	26	(15)	(37%)	3	\$18.16
Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic (51-9195)	24	23	(1)	(4%)	3	\$21.29
Home Appliance Repairers (49-9031)	15	16	1	7%	2	\$20.89
Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic (51-4081)	23	23	0	0%	2	\$18.30
Mechanical Drafters (17-3013)	11	10	(1)	(9%)	1	\$28.04
Mechanical Engineering Technologists and Technicians (17-3027)	11	11	0	0%	1	\$30.20
Precision Instrument and Equipment Repairers, All Other (49-9069)	8	8	0	0%	1	\$28.26
Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders (51-4122)	5	5	0	0%	1	\$17.48
Metal Workers and Plastic Workers, All Other (51-4199)	12	9	(3)	(25%)	1	\$21.50
Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians (51-9083)	12	11	(1)	(8%)	1	\$21.33
Semiconductor Processing Technicians (51-9141)	7	8	1	14%	1	\$19.16
Electric Motor, Power Tool, and Related Repairers (49-2092)	4	4	0	0%	0	\$27.77
Prepress Technicians and Workers (51-5111)	6	2	(4)	(67%)	0	\$16.00
Total	1,196	1,220	24	2%	129	\$24.97

Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed

Supply

From 2021 to 2024, community colleges in the South Central Coast region awarded an average of 772 awards annually across 10 programs within the Advanced Manufacturing sector, as shown in Exhibit 8. AHJCCD conferred an average of 54 awards each year, accounting for 7% of all Advanced Manufacturing awards in the SCC Region. The top-producing program at AHJCCD was Welding Technology (0956.50), with an average of 45 awards conferred annually, representing 83% of all Advanced Manufacturing awards conferred by AHJCCD.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING, CONTINUED

LABOR MARKET SPOTLIGHT:

Welding Technology

Welding Technology (0956.50) is the largest Advanced Manufacturing program at AHJCCD by number of awards. This program trains students to become *Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers (51-4121)*, a Medium-Quality occupation based on regional job quality indicators such as wages, demand, and employment stability. The growth and demand for this occupation is driven by industries connected to aerospace, industrial fabrication, agriculture, and construction. However, entry-level wages are \$22.44 in the AHJCCD service area, which is significantly below the Santa Barbara County living wage. Median annual earnings for AHJCCD students that exited Welding Technology (0956.50) programs in the 2022–23 academic year were \$44,236 (or \$21.26 per hour), which aligns with the wage data for *Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers (51-4121)*.

Though this occupation typically provides stable employment opportunities, consistent full-time hours, and employer-sponsored health insurance, wages are below the living wage. The continued demand for welding skills also reflects the importance of hands-on workforce training programs and work-based learning opportunities such as internships or apprenticeships that align closely with employer needs and could lead to higher wages for students exiting Welding Technology (0956.50) programs.

Exhibit 8: Advanced Manufacturing Awards (Degrees and Certificates)

Program Name (TOP)	AHJCCD 3-Year Average (2021–2024)	South Central Coast Region 3-Year Average (2021–2024)
Aeronautical and Aviation Technology (0950.00)	-	49
Aircraft Fabrication (0950.50)	-	419
Electronics and Electric Technology (0934.00)	4	26
Engineering Technology, General (requires Trigonometry) (0924.00)	2	13
Fashion Production (1303.30)	-	79
Industrial Electronics (0934.20)	-	11
Machining and Machine Tools (0956.30)	3	3
Manufacturing and Industrial Technology (0956.00)	-	18
Mechanical Drafting (0953.40)	-	10
Welding Technology (0956.50)	45	144
Total	54	772

Source: California Community College Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems Data Mart. A dash (-) indicates no programs were offered under this TOP code and a zero (0) indicates a program is offered, but the three-year average of awards equaled less than one.

Advanced Transportation and Logistics

Labor Market Demand Data Points



58

Occupations



8,846

2024 Jobs



1,102

Annual Openings



298

Five-Year Change



3%

Five-Year % Change



\$21.60

Entry-Level Wages

Labor Market Supply Data Points



3

Programs
(TOP Codes)



63

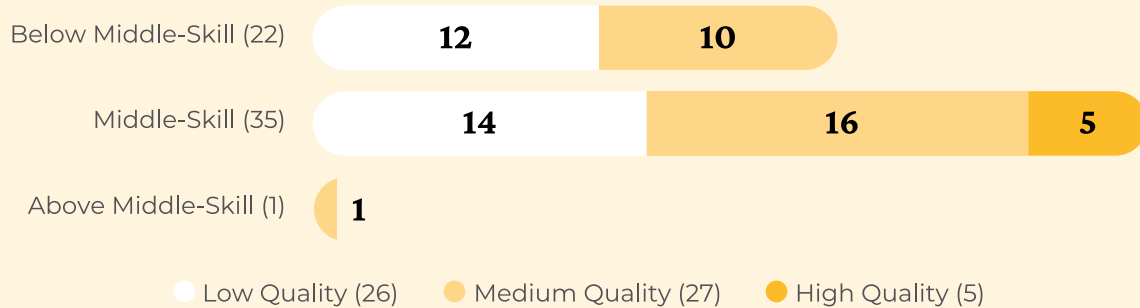
Awards
(2021-2024)



**Automotive
Technology**

Top Program

Job Quality by Occupational Skill Level



ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS, CONTINUED

Demand

In 2024, there were 8,846 jobs across 58 Advanced Transportation and Logistics occupations in the district service area. Of those, 42% (3,745) are for middle-skill occupations. Of the 1,102 projected annual openings, 35% (384) are for middle-skill occupations. Exhibit 9 shows the number of jobs, annual openings, five-year employment change, and entry-level hourly wage for the 35 middle-skill occupations within the sector by job quality level.

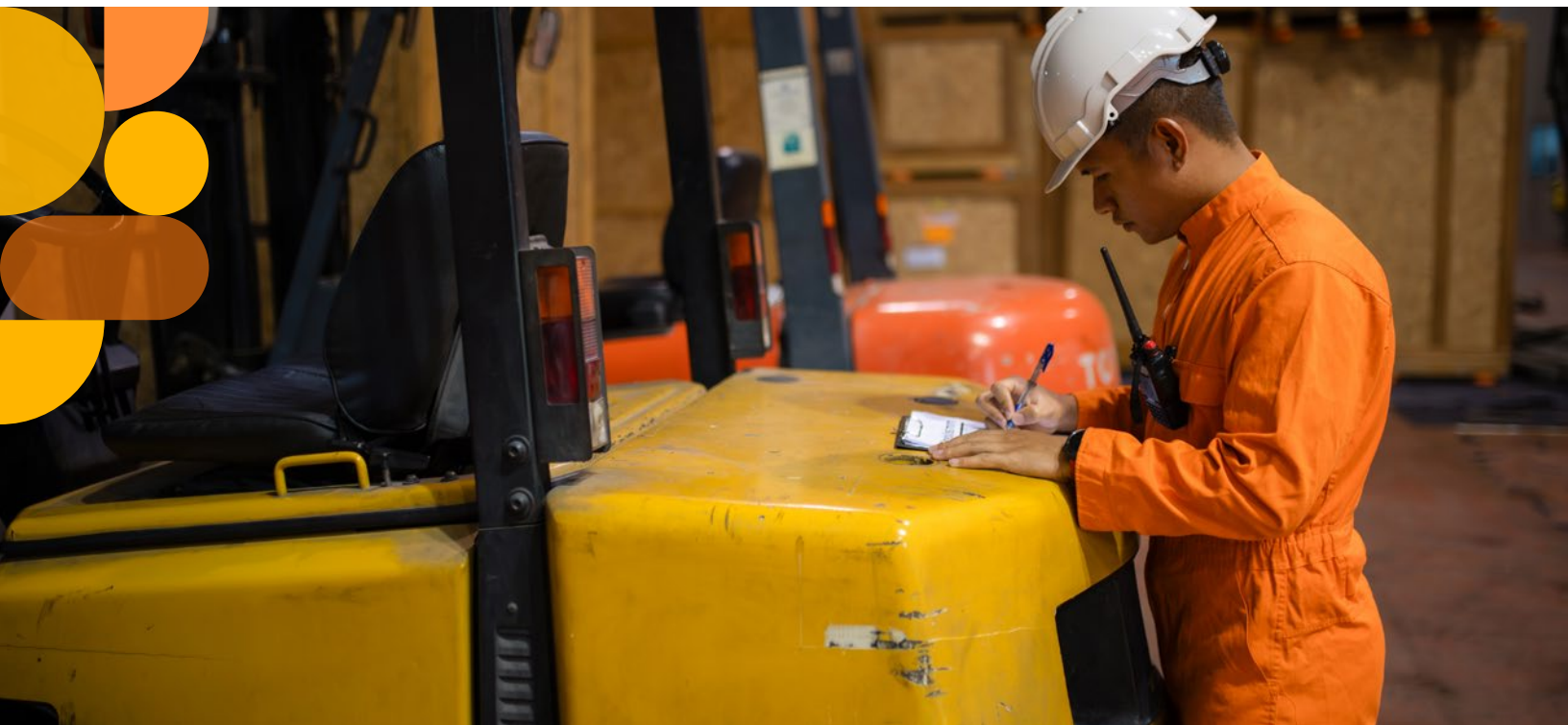
Exhibit 9: Current Employment, Projected Occupational Demand, and Entry-Level Wages for Advanced Transportation and Logistics Middle-Skill Occupations

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
High-Quality Jobs						
First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers (49-1011)	285	295	10	4%	26	\$32.47
Bus Drivers, Transit and Intercity (53-3052)	134	143	9	7%	18	\$32.89
Logisticians (13-1081)	140	143	3	2%	14	\$35.96
Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers (11-3071)	130	132	2	2%	11	\$35.59
Commercial Pilots (53-2012)	69	64	(5)	(7%)	8	\$34.82
Medium-Quality Jobs						
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers (53-3032)	1,306	1,318	12	1%	142	\$22.16
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics (49-3023)	414	414	0	0%	39	\$20.24
First-Line Supervisors of Transportation and Material Moving Workers, Except Aircraft Cargo Handling Supervisors (53-1047)	346	362	16	5%	38	\$22.54
Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks (43-5061)	178	183	5	3%	19	\$23.84
Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines (49-3042)	148	158	10	7%	15	\$30.72
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists (49-3031)	133	133	0	0%	12	\$27.52
Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians (49-3011)	149	129	(20)	(13%)	11	\$28.02
Automotive Body and Related Repairers (49-3021)	98	96	(2)	(2%)	9	\$21.94
Air Traffic Controllers (53-2021)	29	29	0	0%	3	\$52.72
Avionics Technicians (49-2091)	31	26	(5)	(16%)	2	\$41.80
Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians (17-3021)	18	14	(4)	(22%)	1	\$35.30
Railroad Conductors and Yardmasters (53-4031)	9	9	0	0%	1	\$30.74
Subway and Streetcar Operators (53-4041)	9	10	1	11%	1	\$29.95
Ship Engineers (53-5031)	6	5	(1)	(17%)	1	\$49.39
Electrical and Electronics Installers and Repairers, Transportation Equipment (49-2093)	4	3	(1)	(25%)	0	\$37.19
Aircraft Cargo Handling Supervisors (53-1041)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$12.14

ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS, CONTINUED

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
Low-Quality Jobs						
Cargo and Freight Agents (43-5011)	21	21	0	0%	2	\$22.76
Rail Car Repairers (49-3043)	14	16	2	14%	2	\$28.02
Outdoor Power Equipment and Other Small Engine Mechanics (49-3053)	14	15	1	7%	2	\$18.81
Captains, Mates, and Pilots of Water Vessels (53-5021)	21	20	(1)	(5%)	2	\$29.80
Crane and Tower Operators (53-7021)	13	15	2	15%	2	\$26.23
Motorboat Mechanics and Service Technicians (49-3051)	6	6	0	0%	1	\$21.54
Motorcycle Mechanics (49-3052)	6	5	(1)	(17%)	1	\$22.73
Recreational Vehicle Service Technicians (49-3092)	5	4	(1)	(20%)	1	\$19.50
Electronic Equipment Installers and Repairers, Motor Vehicles (49-2096)	3	3	0	0%	0	\$17.80
Aircraft Structure, Surfaces, Rigging, and Systems Assemblers (51-2011)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$13.63
Airfield Operations Specialists (53-2022)	2	2	0	0%	0	\$27.88
Railroad Brake, Signal, and Switch Operators and Locomotive Firers (53-4022)	2	2	0	0%	0	\$25.99
Rail Transportation Workers, All Other (53-4099)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$20.95
Motorboat Operators (53-5022)	2	1	(1)	(50%)	0	\$38.05
Total	3,745	3,776	31	1%	384	\$25.84

Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed



ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS, CONTINUED

Supply

From 2021 to 2024, community colleges in the South Central Coast region awarded an average of 442 awards annually across six programs within the Advanced Transportation and Logistics sector, as shown in Exhibit 10. AHJCCD conferred an average of 63 awards each year, accounting for 14% of all Advanced Transportation and Logistics awards in the SCC Region. The top-producing program at AHJCCD was Automotive Technology (0948.00), with an average of 47 awards conferred annually, representing 75% of all awards conferred in this sector by AHJCCD.

LABOR MARKET SPOTLIGHT:

Automotive Technology

Automotive Technology (0948.00) is the largest program at AHJCCD by number of awards within Advanced Transportation and Logistics. This program prepares students to become *Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics (49-3023)*, a Medium-Quality occupation based on regional job quality indicators such as wages, demand, and employment stability. The growth and demand for this occupation are driven by the Central Coast region's geographic spread and reliance on personal vehicle transportation. Entry-level wages for this occupation are \$20.24 in the AHJCCD service area, which is significantly below the Santa Barbara County living wage. However, this wage data includes all *Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics (49-3023)*, ranging from entry-level lube technicians to experienced master mechanics.

Median annual earnings for AHJCCD students that exited Automotive Technology (0948.00) programs in the 2022–23 academic year were \$36,456 (or \$17.53 per hour), which is substantially lower than the wage data for *Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics (49-3023)*. Though this occupation typically provides stable employment opportunities, consistent full-time hours, and employer-sponsored health insurance, wages are below the living wage. As demand continues to outpace supply, AHJCCD could consider opportunities for program growth, employer partnerships, internships and apprenticeships that connect students to higher-wage opportunities such as those in electric vehicle technology. As transportation technologies continue to evolve, programs that integrate emerging industry skills alongside traditional automotive training may position students for stronger long-term employment outcomes and regional workforce mobility.

Exhibit 10: Advanced Transportation and Logistics Awards (Degrees and Certificates)

Program Name (TOP)	AHJCCD 3-Year Average (2021–2024)	South Central Coast Region 3-Year Average (2021–2024)
Automotive Collision Repair (0949.00)	14	78
Automotive Technology (0948.00)	47	296
Aviation Airframe Mechanics (0950.10)	-	25
Aviation Powerplant Mechanics (0950.20)	-	24
Diesel Technology (0947.00)	-	17
Truck and Bus Driving (0947.50)	2	2
Total	63	442

Source: California Community College Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems Data Mart. A dash (-) indicates no programs were offered under this TOP code and a zero (0) indicates a program is offered, but the three-year average of awards equaled less than one.

Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies

Labor Market Demand Data Points



38

Occupations



25,115

2024 Jobs



4,444

Annual Openings



3,192

Five-Year Change



13%

Five-Year % Change



\$16.43

Entry-Level Wages

Labor Market Supply Data Points



8

Programs
(TOP Codes)



75

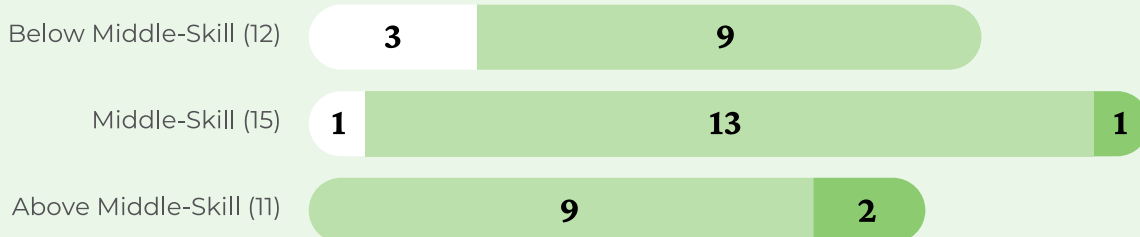
Awards
(2021-2024)



**Environmental
Technology**

Top Program

Job Quality by Occupational Skill Level



● Low Quality (4) ● Medium Quality (31) ● High Quality (3)

AGRICULTURE, WATER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES, CONTINUED

Demand

In 2024, there were 25,115 jobs across 38 Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies occupations in the district service area. Of those, 22% (5,580) are for middle-skill occupations. Of the 4,444 projected annual openings, 19% (843) are for middle-skill occupations. Exhibit 11 shows the number of jobs, annual openings, five-year employment change, and entry-level hourly wage for the 15 middle-skill occupations within the sector by job quality level.

LABOR MARKET SPOTLIGHT:

Agriculture Technology, Innovation, and the Regional Economy

Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies is the largest and fastest-growing sector within the AHJCCD service area. The sector accounts for more than 25,000 jobs and is projected to add over 3,100 new jobs through 2029, generating nearly 4,500 annual openings. These findings reflect the historic and ongoing importance of agriculture and environmental industries across the Central Coast economy. While many occupations within this sector are below middle-skill, there is growing demand for agricultural technology, environmental systems, and skilled technical occupations that support modernization across the industry such as *Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians (49-3041)* and *Agricultural Technicians (19-4012)*.

The future of agriculture on the Central Coast could increasingly depend on workers who possess both traditional agricultural knowledge and technical workforce skills. As industries continue integrating automation, sustainability practices, advanced irrigation systems, and environmental technologies, regional employers may require a more technically trained workforce. The AHJCCD service area is home to TRIC Robotics, an agricultural technology firm that operates in Santa Maria and utilizes robotic tractors with UV light for pest control rather than traditional chemical pesticides.⁸ Bonipak Produce, another company that operates in the AHJCCD service area, also uses artificial intelligence-enabled technology for precision crop spraying and to access data from sensors installed on machinery.⁹

These technological advances present an opportunity for AHJCCD to strengthen agricultural technology workforce pathways that combine traditional agriculture with new technologies that support one of the service area's foundational economic sectors.



AGRICULTURE, WATER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES, CONTINUED

Exhibit 11: Current Employment, Projected Occupational Demand, and Entry-Level Wages for Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies Middle-Skill Occupations

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
High-Quality Jobs						
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians (29-2056)	48	53	5	10%	6	\$22.34
Medium-Quality Jobs						
Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers (11-9013)	3,984	4,599	615	15%	575	\$15.69
First-Line Supervisors of Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers (45-1011)	879	1,017	138	16%	157	\$18.61
Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians (49-3041)	114	131	17	15%	13	\$18.92
Agricultural Technicians (19-4012)	62	73	11	18%	12	\$21.48
Forest and Conservation Technicians (19-4071)	88	91	3	3%	12	\$29.37
Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers (31-9096)	60	65	5	8%	12	\$17.90
Forest and Conservation Workers (45-4011)	39	46	7	18%	10	\$16.48
First-Line Supervisors of Landscaping, Lawn Service, and Groundskeeping Workers (37-1012)	77	78	1	1%	9	\$22.00
Food Science Technicians (19-4013)	44	49	5	11%	8	\$26.02
Animal Trainers (39-2011)	38	39	1	3%	6	\$16.19
Hazardous Materials Removal Workers (47-4041)	41	49	8	20%	6	\$22.77
Floral Designers (27-1023)	34	35	1	3%	4	\$16.77
Agricultural Inspectors (45-2011)	21	24	3	14%	4	\$19.17
Low-Quality Jobs						
Pesticide Handlers, Sprayers, and Applicators, Vegetation (37-3012)	51	59	8	16%	9	\$17.77
Total	5,580	6,408	828	15%	843	\$16.85

Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed

AGRICULTURE, WATER, AND ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES, CONTINUED

Supply

From 2021 to 2024, community colleges in the South Central Coast region awarded an average of 305 awards annually across 13 programs within the Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies sector, as shown in Exhibit 12. AHJCCD conferred an average of 75 awards each year, accounting for approximately 25% of all Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies awards in the SCC Region. The top-producing program at AHJCCD was Environmental Technology (0303.00), with an average of 29 awards conferred annually.

Exhibit 12: Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies Awards (Degrees and Certificates)

Program Name (TOP)	AHJCCD 3-Year Average (2021–2024)	South Central Coast Region 3-Year Average (2021–2024)
Agricultural Pest Control Adviser and Operator (Licensed) (0103.10)	2	2
Agricultural Power Equipment Technology (0116.00)	-	0
Agriculture Business, Sales and Service (0112.00)	3	21
Agriculture Technology and Sciences, General (0101.00)	11	11
Animal Science (0102.00)	-	66
Environmental Technology (0303.00)	29	29
Floriculture / Floristry (0109.20)	4	4
Horticulture (0109.00)	-	13
Landscape Design and Maintenance (0109.10)	-	65
Nursery Technology (0109.30)	-	1
Plant Science (0103.00)	8	32
Veterinary Technician (Licensed) (0102.10)	10	50
Viticulture, Enology, and Wine Business (0104.00)	8	11
Total	75	305

Source: California Community College Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems Data Mart. A dash (-) indicates no programs were offered under this TOP code and a zero (0) indicates a program is offered, but the three-year average of awards equaled less than one.

Business and Entrepreneurship

Labor Market Demand Data Points



95

Occupations



16,824

2024 Jobs



1,729

Annual Openings



432

Five-Year Change



3%

Five-Year % Change



\$27.81

Entry-Level Wages

Labor Market Supply Data Points



10

Programs
(TOP Codes)



266

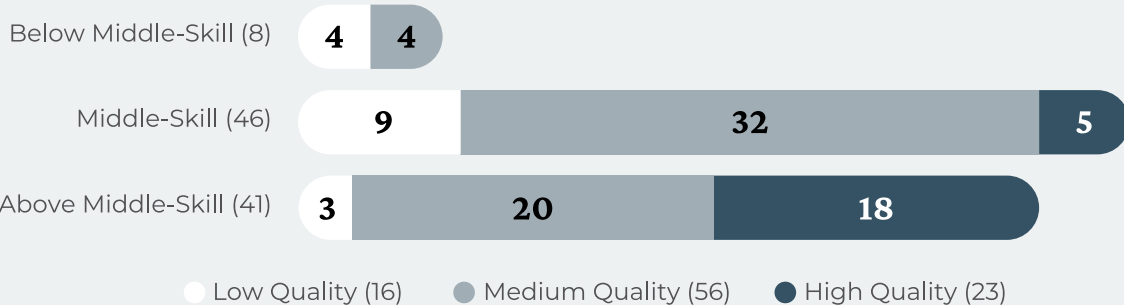
Awards
(2021-2024)



**Business
Administration**

Top Program

Job Quality by Occupational Skill Level



BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, CONTINUED

Demand

In 2024, there were 16,824 jobs across 95 Business and Entrepreneurship occupations in the district service area. Of those, 61% (10,346) are for middle-skill occupations. Of the 1,729 projected annual openings, 67% (1,150) are for middle-skill occupations. Exhibit 13 shows the number of jobs, annual openings, five-year employment change, and entry-level hourly wage for the 46 middle-skill occupations within the sector by job quality level.

Exhibit 13: Current Employment, Projected Occupational Demand, and Entry-Level Wages for Business and Entrepreneurship Middle-Skill Occupations

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
High-Quality Jobs						
General and Operations Managers (11-1021)	1,386	1,474	88	6%	132	\$36.54
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants (43-6011)	191	194	3	2%	21	\$32.80
Administrative Services Managers (11-3012)	141	146	5	4%	13	\$37.73
Facilities Managers (11-3013)	81	86	5	6%	8	\$36.97
Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators (13-1031)	51	52	1	2%	4	\$35.17
Medium-Quality Jobs						
Office Clerks, General (43-9061)	1,631	1,624	(7)	(0%)	192	\$20.20
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive (43-6014)	986	1,020	34	3%	117	\$21.03
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks (43-3031)	928	940	12	1%	109	\$22.48
Customer Service Representatives (43-4051)	606	604	(2)	(0%)	81	\$18.89
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers (43-1011)	713	709	(4)	(1%)	68	\$27.74
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products (41-4012)	692	713	21	3%	67	\$24.46
Receptionists and Information Clerks (43-4171)	423	436	13	3%	60	\$17.74
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists (39-5012)	231	239	8	3%	33	\$13.59
Real Estate Sales Agents (41-9022)	266	273	7	3%	24	\$21.26
Buyers and Purchasing Agents (13-1028)	222	231	9	4%	23	\$29.15
Barbers (39-5011)	134	153	19	14%	19	\$15.57
Manicurists and Pedicurists (39-5092)	121	139	18	15%	18	\$14.06
Property, Real Estate, and Community Association Managers (11-9141)	198	198	0	0%	17	\$21.44
Sales and Related Workers, All Other (41-9099)	115	117	2	2%	16	\$18.07

BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, CONTINUED

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
Insurance Sales Agents (41-3021)	179	181	2	1%	15	\$25.92
Payroll and Timekeeping Clerks (43-3051)	118	118	0	0%	13	\$23.31
Cost Estimators (13-1051)	125	129	4	3%	12	\$28.79
Skincare Specialists (39-5094)	56	63	7	13%	10	\$16.28
First-Line Supervisors of Non-Retail Sales Workers (41-1012)	129	124	(5)	(4%)	10	\$22.73
Human Resources Assistants, Except Payroll and Timekeeping (43-4161)	60	61	1	2%	7	\$22.58
Data Entry Keyers (43-9021)	64	59	(5)	(8%)	7	\$17.42
Morticians, Undertakers, and Funeral Arrangers (39-4031)	29	39	10	34%	6	\$17.31
Real Estate Brokers (41-9021)	66	66	0	0%	6	\$23.85
Order Clerks (43-4151)	55	49	(6)	(11%)	6	\$18.64
File Clerks (43-4071)	41	38	(3)	(7%)	5	\$17.75
Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks (43-9041)	47	45	(2)	(4%)	4	\$22.50
Bill and Account Collectors (43-3011)	33	31	(2)	(6%)	3	\$24.20
Title Examiners, Abstractors, and Searchers (23-2093)	21	21	0	0%	2	\$33.70
Loan Interviewers and Clerks (43-4131)	15	16	1	7%	2	\$22.72
Funeral Home Managers (11-9171)	1	3	2	200%	1	\$14.98
Brokerage Clerks (43-4011)	12	10	(2)	(17%)	1	\$20.56
Statistical Assistants (43-9111)	1	1	0	0%	0	\$32.48
Low-Quality Jobs						
Tellers (43-3071)	51	47	(4)	(8%)	5	\$21.37
Property Appraisers and Assessors (13-2028)	32	29	(3)	(9%)	3	\$30.71
Tax Preparers (13-2082)	24	25	1	4%	3	\$14.15
Procurement Clerks (43-3061)	30	29	(1)	(3%)	3	\$22.86
Word Processors and Typists (43-9022)	30	25	(5)	(17%)	3	\$23.85
Advertising Sales Agents (41-3011)	10	9	(1)	(10%)	1	\$17.54
Insurance Appraisers, Auto Damage (13-1032)	1	0	(1)	(100%)	0	\$29.01
Embalmers (39-4011)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$23.81
Credit Authorizers, Checkers, and Clerks (43-4041)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$18.58
Total	10,346	10,566	220	2%	1,150	\$24.25

Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed

BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, CONTINUED

Supply

From 2021 to 2024, community colleges in the South Central Coast region awarded an average of 3,263 awards annually across 16 programs within the Business and Entrepreneurship sector, as shown in Exhibit 14. AHJCCD conferred an average of 266 awards each year, accounting for approximately 8% of all Business and Entrepreneurship awards in the SCC Region. The top-producing program at AHJCCD was Business Administration (0505.00), with an average of 105 awards conferred annually.

LABOR MARKET SPOTLIGHT:

Expanding Local Bachelor's Degree Pathways in Business

Business and Entrepreneurship is one of the largest sectors within the AHJCCD service area, generating strong demand for occupations tied to management, administration, finance, and organizational operations. The sector also reflects one of the region's largest labor gaps, indicating that employer demand is outpacing the supply of local awards conferred through career education programs. Top programs at AHJCCD within the sector include Business Administration (0505.00), Business Management (0506.00), and Accounting (0502.00), which align with in-demand middle-skill occupations such as *General and Operations Managers (11-1021)*, *Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks (43-3031)*, and *First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers (43-1011)*. These programs can also lead to transfer for above middle-skill occupations such as *Accountants and Auditors (13-2011)*, *Human Resources Specialists (13-1071)*, and *Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists (13-1161)*.

To help address these workforce and educational needs, AHJCCD partnered with California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) to expand access to bachelor's degree opportunities in Business Administration for students on the Central Coast. The partnership allows students to complete a Cal Poly Bachelor of Science in Business Administration locally at the AHJCCD Santa Maria campus, creating a direct pathway from community college coursework into an applied four-year business degree. This partnership is designed to increase educational access for students who may be place-bound due to work, family responsibilities, or transportation barriers while also helping retain skilled talent within the region.⁷



BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, CONTINUED

Exhibit 14: Business and Entrepreneurship Awards (Degrees and Certificates)

Program Name (TOP)	AHJCCD 3-Year Average (2021–2024)	South Central Coast Region 3-Year Average (2021–2024)
Accounting (0502.00)	28	545
Banking and Finance (0504.00)	-	5
Business Administration (0505.00)	105	1,308
Business and Commerce, General (0501.00)	55	613
Business Management (0506.00)	13	308
Cosmetology and Barbering (3007.00)	40	64
Customer Service (0518.00)	5	5
E-Commerce (Business emphasis) (0509.70)	-	5
International Business and Trade (0508.00)	-	6
Legal Office Technology (0514.10)	2	12
Management Development and Supervision (0506.30)	-	8
Marketing and Distribution (0509.00)	5	77
Other Business and Management (0599.00)	-	200
Real Estate (0511.00)	-	54
Sales and Salesmanship (0509.40)	11	11
Small Business and Entrepreneurship (0506.40)	2	42
Total	266	3,263

Source: California Community College Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems Data Mart. A dash (-) indicates no programs were offered under this TOP code and a zero (0) indicates a program is offered, but the three-year average of awards equaled less than one.



Education and Human Development

Labor Market Demand Data Points



35

Occupations



7,422

2024 Jobs



836

Annual Openings



307

Five-Year Change



4%

Five-Year % Change



\$26.06

Entry-Level Wages

Labor Market Supply Data Points



6

Programs
(TOP Codes)



63

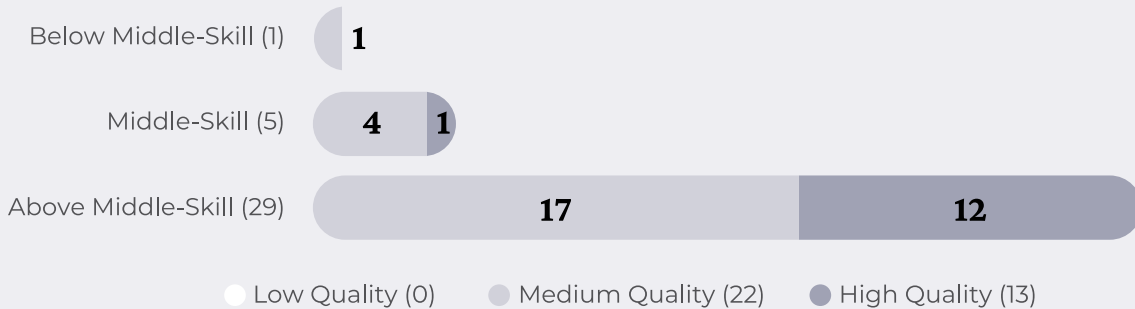
Awards
(2021-2024)



**Child Development/
Early Care and
Education**

Top Program

Job Quality by Occupational Skill Level



EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, CONTINUED

Demand

In 2024, there were 7,422 jobs across 35 Education and Human Development occupations in the district service area. Of those, 31% (2,295) are for middle-skill occupations. Of the 836 projected annual openings, 42% (352) are for middle-skill occupations. Exhibit 15 shows the number of jobs, annual openings, five-year employment change, and entry-level hourly wage for the five middle-skill occupations within the sector by job quality level.

Exhibit 15: Current Employment, Projected Occupational Demand, and Entry-Level Wages for Education and Human Development Middle-Skill Occupations

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
High-Quality Jobs						
Kindergarten Teachers, Except Special Education (25-2012)	75	77	2	3%	9	\$38.16
Medium-Quality Jobs						
Childcare Workers (39-9011)	1,037	1,081	44	4%	190	\$15.99
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary (25-9045)	729	757	28	4%	94	\$17.99
Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education (25-2011)	332	360	28	8%	44	\$18.48
Teaching Assistants, Postsecondary (25-9044)	122	126	4	3%	15	\$17.19
Total	2,295	2,401	106	5%	352	\$17.77

Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed



EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, CONTINUED

Supply

From 2021 to 2024, community colleges in the South Central Coast region awarded an average of 1,030 awards annually across 14 programs within the Education and Human Development sector, as shown in Exhibit 16. AHJCCD conferred an average of 63 awards each year, accounting for approximately 6% of all Education and Human Development awards in the SCC Region. The top-producing program at AHJCCD was Child Development/Early Care and Education (1305.00), with an average of 38 awards conferred annually.

Exhibit 16: Education and Human Development Awards (Degrees and Certificates)

Program Name (TOP)	AHJCCD 3-Year Average (2021–2024)	South Central Coast Region 3-Year Average (2021–2024)
Child and Adolescent Development (1305.10)	-	119
Child Development Administration and Management (1305.80)	-	12
Child Development/Early Care and Education (1305.00)	38	705
Children with Special Needs (1305.20)	1	10
Coaching (0835.60)	-	1
Educational Aide (Teacher Assistant) (0802.00)	1	60
Educational Aide (Teacher Assistant), Bilingual (0802.10)	0	0
Family Studies (1308.00)	-	22
Infants and Toddlers (1305.90)	3	21
Other Education (0899.00)	-	1
Preschool Age Children (1305.40)	-	22
Recreation (0836.00)	20	24
Sign Language Interpreting (0850.10)	-	26
The School Age Child (1305.50)	-	7
Total	63	1,030

Source: California Community College Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems Data Mart. A dash (-) indicates no programs were offered under this TOP code and a zero (0) indicates a program is offered, but the three-year average of awards equaled less than one.

Energy, Construction and Utilities

Labor Market Demand Data Points



94
Occupations



6,775
2024 Jobs



657
Annual Openings



312
Five-Year Change



5%
Five-Year % Change



\$26.49
Entry-Level Wages

Labor Market Supply Data Points



2
Programs
(TOP Codes)

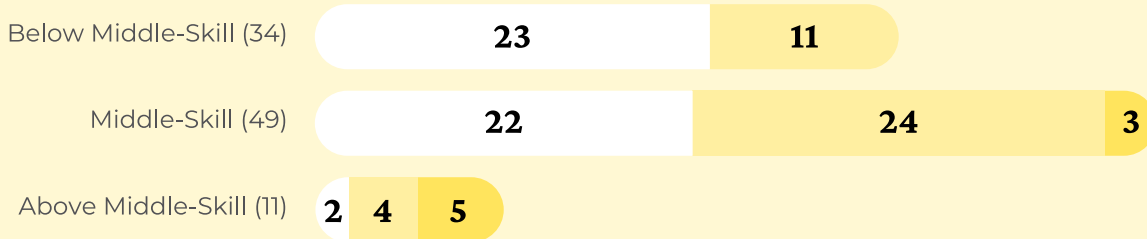


14
Awards
(2021-2024)



**Architectural
Drafting**
Top Program

Job Quality by Occupational Skill Level



● Low Quality (47) ● Medium Quality (39) ● High Quality (8)

ENERGY, CONSTRUCTION AND UTILITIES, CONTINUED

Demand

In 2024, there were 6,775 jobs across 94 Energy, Construction, and Utilities occupations in the district service area. Of those, 43% (2,935) are for middle-skill occupations. Of the 657 projected annual openings, 43% (285) are for middle-skill occupations. Exhibit 17 shows the number of jobs, annual openings, five-year employment change, and entry-level hourly wage for the 49 middle-skill occupations within the sector by job quality level.

LABOR MARKET SPOTLIGHT:

Housing Expansion and Construction Workforce

Recent regional housing discussions have highlighted the growing need for housing development, infrastructure expansion, and skilled construction workers across the AHJCCD service area and Santa Barbara County. Local leaders, developers, and housing advocates noted that Santa Maria has thousands of housing units planned or under development, including major residential projects intended to address ongoing housing shortages and affordability concerns. However, industry leaders identified workforce shortages in construction and skilled trades as one of the primary barriers slowing housing development throughout the region.^{5,6} These findings align closely with labor market data in the Energy, Construction, and Utilities sector, which show substantial demand for occupations tied to electrical work, HVAC, plumbing, welding, and construction management. As residential construction projects develop, AHJCCD could work with local employers to identify specific skills requirements to prepare a qualified workforce that can support future regional growth and housing development efforts.

Exhibit 17: Current Employment, Projected Occupational Demand, and Entry-Level Wages for Energy, Construction, and Utilities Middle-Skill Occupations

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
High-Quality Jobs						
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers (47-1011)	396	421	25	6%	37	\$32.93
Construction and Building Inspectors (47-4011)	101	101	0	0%	11	\$37.68
Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians (17-3022)	50	49	(1)	(2%)	4	\$31.78
Medium-Quality Jobs						
Carpenters (47-2031)	589	600	11	2%	52	\$22.82
Electricians (47-2111)	294	314	20	7%	31	\$27.03
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters (47-2152)	320	335	15	5%	31	\$28.05
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators (47-2073)	249	265	16	6%	25	\$30.25
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers (49-9021)	146	158	12	8%	15	\$26.81
Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators (51-8031)	149	145	(4)	(3%)	14	\$32.11
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers, All Other (49-9099)	126	127	1	1%	13	\$20.25

ENERGY, CONSTRUCTION AND UTILITIES, CONTINUED

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
Sheet Metal Workers (47-2211)	45	47	2	4%	5	\$27.48
Architectural and Civil Drafters (17-3011)	40	41	1	3%	4	\$28.20
Environmental Science and Protection Technicians, Including Health (19-4042)	30	32	2	7%	4	\$19.71
Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers (49-2022)	37	36	(1)	(3%)	4	\$22.35
Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers (49-9051)	43	45	2	5%	4	\$49.84
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters (51-7011)	40	38	(2)	(5%)	4	\$21.22
Stationary Engineers and Boiler Operators (51-8021)	36	37	1	3%	4	\$21.86
Surveying and Mapping Technicians (17-3031)	16	16	0	0%	2	\$26.83
Solar Photovoltaic Installers (47-2231)	12	14	2	17%	2	\$21.88
Environmental Engineering Technologists and Technicians (17-3025)	15	15	0	0%	1	\$43.63
Explosives Workers, Ordnance Handling Experts, and Blasters (47-5032)	13	11	(2)	(15%)	1	\$39.16
Hydrologic Technicians (19-4044)	4	4	0	0%	0	\$21.91
Nuclear Technicians (19-4051)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$26.38
Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Powerhouse, Substation, and Relay (49-2095)	5	4	(1)	(20%)	0	\$50.69
Nuclear Power Reactor Operators (51-8011)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$53.80
Power Distributors and Dispatchers (51-8012)	2	2	0	0%	0	\$46.13
Gas Plant Operators (51-8092)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$57.83
Low-Quality Jobs						
Paving, Surfacing, and Tamping Equipment Operators (47-2071)	23	26	3	13%	3	\$18.22
Glaziers (47-2121)	28	30	2	7%	3	\$27.73
Security and Fire Alarm Systems Installers (49-2098)	20	22	2	10%	3	\$24.27
Structural Iron and Steel Workers (47-2221)	21	24	3	14%	2	\$22.77
Brickmasons and Blockmasons (47-2021)	14	13	(1)	(7%)	1	\$16.27
Stonemasons (47-2022)	7	7	0	0%	1	\$27.73
Reinforcing Iron and Rebar Workers (47-2171)	13	13	0	0%	1	\$25.15
Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers (49-9052)	15	15	0	0%	1	\$28.65
Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing (51-7042)	7	6	(1)	(14%)	1	\$17.22
Power Plant Operators (51-8013)	7	7	0	0%	1	\$34.51

ENERGY, CONSTRUCTION AND UTILITIES, CONTINUED

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
Drafters, All Other (17-3019)	6	5	(1)	(17%)	0	\$25.50
Geological Technicians, Except Hydrologic Technicians (19-4043)	3	2	(1)	(33%)	0	\$22.12
Terrazzo Workers and Finishers (47-2053)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$15.91
Pile Driver Operators (47-2072)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$15.28
Radio, Cellular, and Tower Equipment Installers and Repairers (49-2021)	3	3	0	0%	0	\$27.63
Refractory Materials Repairers, Except Brickmasons (49-9045)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$9.07
Wind Turbine Service Technicians (49-9081)	2	2	0	0%	0	\$21.89
Commercial Divers (49-9092)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$19.85
Model Makers, Wood (51-7031)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$10.33
Patternmakers, Wood (51-7032)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$10.03
Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood (51-7041)	4	3	(1)	(25%)	0	\$15.99
Woodworkers, All Other (51-7099)	4	3	(1)	(25%)	0	\$7.50
Total	2,935	3,038	103	4%	285	\$27.79

Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed



ENERGY, CONSTRUCTION AND UTILITIES, CONTINUED

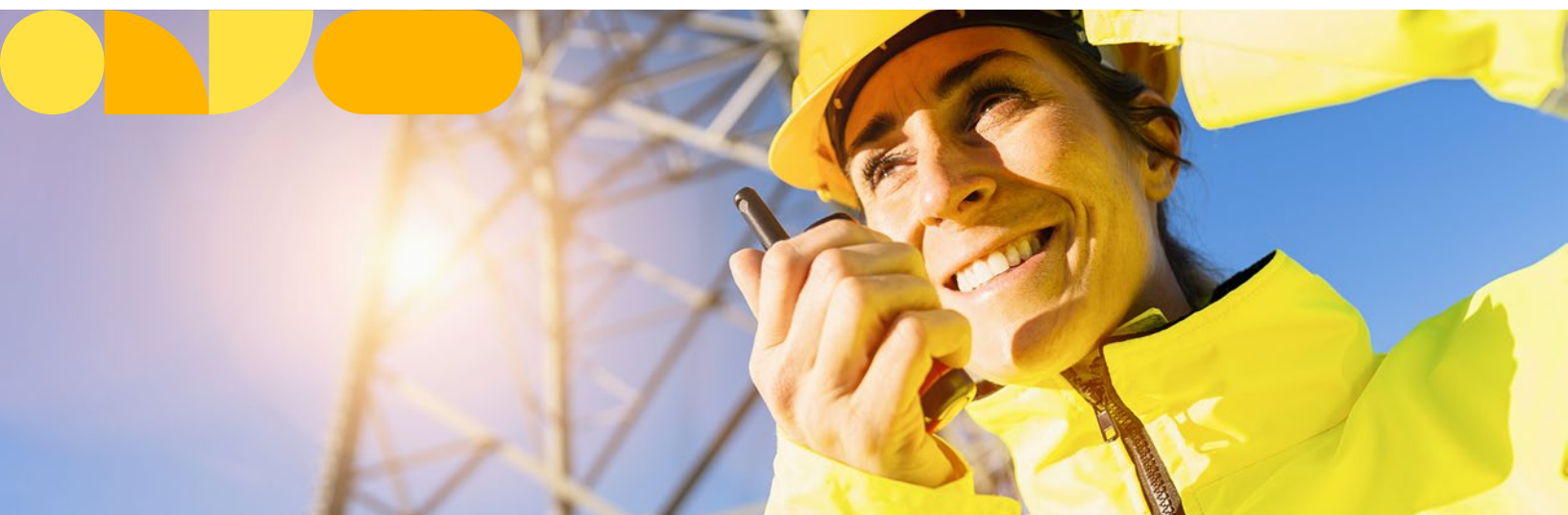
Supply

From 2021 to 2024, community colleges in the South Central Coast region awarded an average of 330 awards annually across 13 programs within the Energy, Construction, and Utilities sector, as shown in Exhibit 18. AHJCCD conferred an average of 14 awards each year, accounting for approximately 4% of all Energy, Construction, and Utilities awards in the SCC Region. Notably, Architectural Drafting (0953.10) and Drafting Technology (0953.00) were the only two programs at AHJCCD with awards, averaging 11 and 3 awards respectively.

Exhibit 18: Energy, Construction, and Utilities Awards (Degrees and Certificates)

Program Name (TOP)	AHJCCD 3-Year Average (2021–2024)	South Central Coast Region 3-Year Average (2021–2024)
Architectural Drafting (0953.10)	11	32
Architecture and Architectural Technology (0201.00)	-	26
Carpentry (0952.10)	-	0
Civil and Construction Management Technology (0957.00)	-	27
Construction Crafts Technology (0952.00)	-	22
Construction Inspection (0957.20)	-	15
Drafting Technology (0953.00)	3	40
Electrical (0952.20)	-	53
Environmental Control Technology (0946.00)	-	28
Painting, Decorating, and Flooring (0952.70)	-	2
Plumbing, Pipefitting and Steamfitting (0952.30)	-	0
Surveying (0957.30)	-	19
Water and Wastewater Technology (0958.00)	-	66
Total	14	330

Source: California Community College Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems Data Mart. A dash (-) indicates no programs were offered under this TOP code and a zero (0) indicates a program is offered, but the three-year average of awards equaled less than one.



Health

Labor Market Demand Data Points



96

Occupations



11,660

2024 Jobs



1,493

Annual Openings



1,071

Five-Year Change



9%

Five-Year % Change



\$29.79

Entry-Level Wages

Labor Market Supply Data Points



13

Programs
(TOP Codes)



414

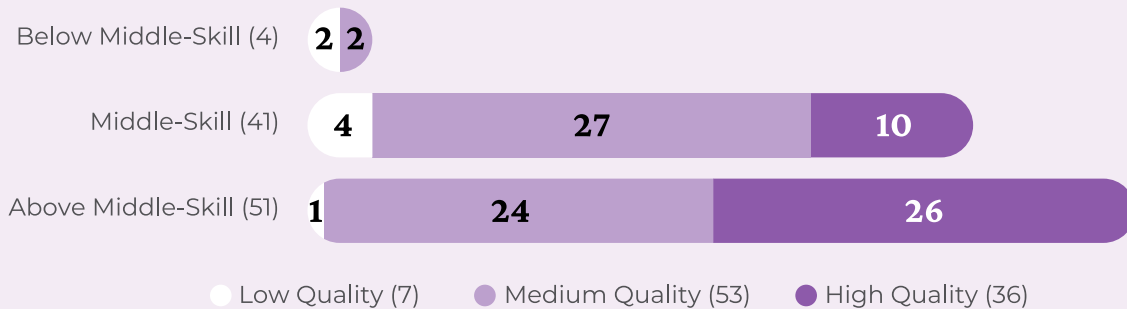
Awards
(2021-2024)



**Emergency Medical
Services & Licensed
Vocational Nursing**

Top Program

Job Quality by Occupational Skill Level



HEALTH, CONTINUED

Demand

In 2024, there were 11,660 jobs across 96 Health occupations in the district service area. Of those, 78% (9,089) are for middle-skill occupations. Of the 1,493 projected annual openings, 86% (1,287) are for middle-skill occupations. Exhibit 19 shows the number of jobs, annual openings, five-year employment change, and entry-level hourly wage for the 41 middle-skill occupations within the sector by job quality level.

Exhibit 19: Current Employment, Projected Occupational Demand, and Entry-Level Wages for Health Middle-Skill Occupations

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
High-Quality Jobs						
Medical Assistants (31-9092)	538	576	38	7%	79	\$22.14
Registered Nurses (29-1141)	994	1,036	42	4%	61	\$53.84
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses (29-2061)	302	320	18	6%	28	\$33.51
Paramedics (29-2043)	178	209	31	17%	16	\$34.72
Dental Hygienists (29-1292)	181	186	5	3%	13	\$60.56
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians (29-2034)	79	82	3	4%	5	\$46.26
Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)	26	31	5	19%	5	\$36.01
Respiratory Therapists (29-1126)	30	32	2	7%	2	\$46.36
Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (29-2032)	27	29	2	7%	2	\$57.29
Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011)	12	15	3	25%	2	\$34.60
Medium-Quality Jobs						
Home Health and Personal Care Aides (31-1128)	3,839	4,366	527	14%	707	\$16.08
Nursing Assistants (31-1131)	427	468	41	10%	71	\$19.36
Dental Assistants (31-9091)	371	379	8	2%	52	\$22.09
Social and Human Service Assistants (21-1093)	358	396	38	11%	45	\$22.70
Emergency Medical Technicians (29-2042)	306	379	73	24%	40	\$20.37
Medical Secretaries and Administrative Assistants (43-6013)	373	384	11	3%	40	\$21.25
Pharmacy Technicians (29-2052)	230	226	(4)	(2%)	21	\$21.36
Massage Therapists (31-9011)	121	137	16	13%	19	\$16.13
Healthcare Support Workers, All Other (31-9099)	101	103	2	2%	14	\$22.31
Phlebotomists (31-9097)	72	70	(2)	(3%)	9	\$24.31
Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other (29-2099)	79	82	3	4%	7	\$23.21
Physical Therapist Aides (31-2022)	38	38	0	0%	6	\$16.96

HEALTH, CONTINUED

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
Medical Records Specialists (29-2072)	65	70	5	8%	5	\$21.83
Community Health Workers (21-1094)	28	31	3	11%	4	\$21.53
Dietetic Technicians (29-2051)	21	22	1	5%	3	\$17.44
Medical Equipment Preparers (31-9093)	20	20	0	0%	3	\$21.58
Cardiovascular Technologists and Technicians (29-2031)	24	24	0	0%	2	\$28.24
Surgical Technologists (29-2055)	37	37	0	0%	2	\$32.57
Ophthalmic Medical Technicians (29-2057)	15	16	1	7%	2	\$17.50
Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists (29-2035)	14	15	1	7%	1	\$50.59
Health Information Technologists and Medical Registrars (29-9021)	16	17	1	6%	1	\$26.75
Surgical Assistants (29-9093)	12	12	0	0%	1	\$25.57
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Workers, All Other (29-9099)	11	12	1	9%	1	\$20.36
Radiation Therapists (29-1124)	3	3	0	0%	0	\$59.08
Nuclear Medicine Technologists (29-2033)	8	8	0	0%	0	\$45.89
Medical Dosimetrists (29-2036)	1	1	0	0%	0	\$25.39
Occupational Therapy Aides (31-2012)	1	1	0	0%	0	\$16.02
Low-Quality Jobs						
Medical Transcriptionists (31-9094)	32	28	(4)	(13%)	6	\$18.64
Psychiatric Technicians (29-2053)	31	40	9	29%	5	\$28.47
Dental Laboratory Technicians (51-9081)	36	32	(4)	(11%)	4	\$18.93
Opticians, Dispensing (29-2081)	32	28	(4)	(13%)	3	\$21.34
Total	9,089	9,961	872	10%	1,287	\$24.70

Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed

HEALTH, CONTINUED

Supply

From 2021 to 2024, community colleges in the South Central Coast region awarded an average of 1,987 awards annually across 27 programs within the Health sector, as shown in Exhibit 20. AHJCCD conferred an average of 414 awards each year, accounting for approximately 21% of all Health awards in the SCC Region. The top-producing programs at AHJCCD were Emergency Medical Services (1250.00) and Licensed Vocational Nursing (1230.20), with an average of 65 awards conferred annually.

LABOR MARKET SPOTLIGHT:

Expanding Health Pathways

The Health sector continues to represent one of the strongest opportunities for middle-skill workforce development within the AHJCCD service area. With nearly 1,500 annual openings and entry-level wages approaching \$30 per hour, health occupations provide pathways to stable employment and economic mobility for local residents. Many of these occupations align directly with community college training programs, reinforcing the important role AHJCCD plays in preparing the regional healthcare workforce. Demand for healthcare workers is expected to continue growing as the population ages and healthcare access expands throughout the region. These trends highlight the importance of sustained investment in health education, clinical partnerships, and workforce training programs.

AHJCCD has developed one of the region's most comprehensive healthcare education pathways, creating opportunities for students to advance through multiple levels of healthcare training. Programs include Home Health Aide (1230.80), Certified Nursing Assistant (1230.30), Licensed Vocational Nursing (1230.20), and Registered Nursing (1230.10), providing stackable workforce pathways that support both immediate employment and long-term career advancement. These programs align with high-demand healthcare occupations such as *Home Health and Personal Care Aides (31-1120)*, *Nursing Assistants (31-1131)*, *Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses (29-2061)*, and *Registered Nurses (29-1141)*.

The district has also partnered with Santa Barbara City College to expand local access to prerequisite coursework for Radiologic Technology (1225.00) programs, helping students prepare for careers as *Radiologic Technologists and Technicians (29-2034)*, a High-Quality occupation with entry-level wages exceeding \$46 per hour.³ AHJCCD also partnered with California State University Channel Islands to offer a local Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) completion pathway, allowing students to continue their nursing education at AHJCCD's main campus.⁴ Together, these partnerships strengthen local healthcare workforce capacity while expanding educational access and career mobility for Central Coast residents.



HEALTH, CONTINUED

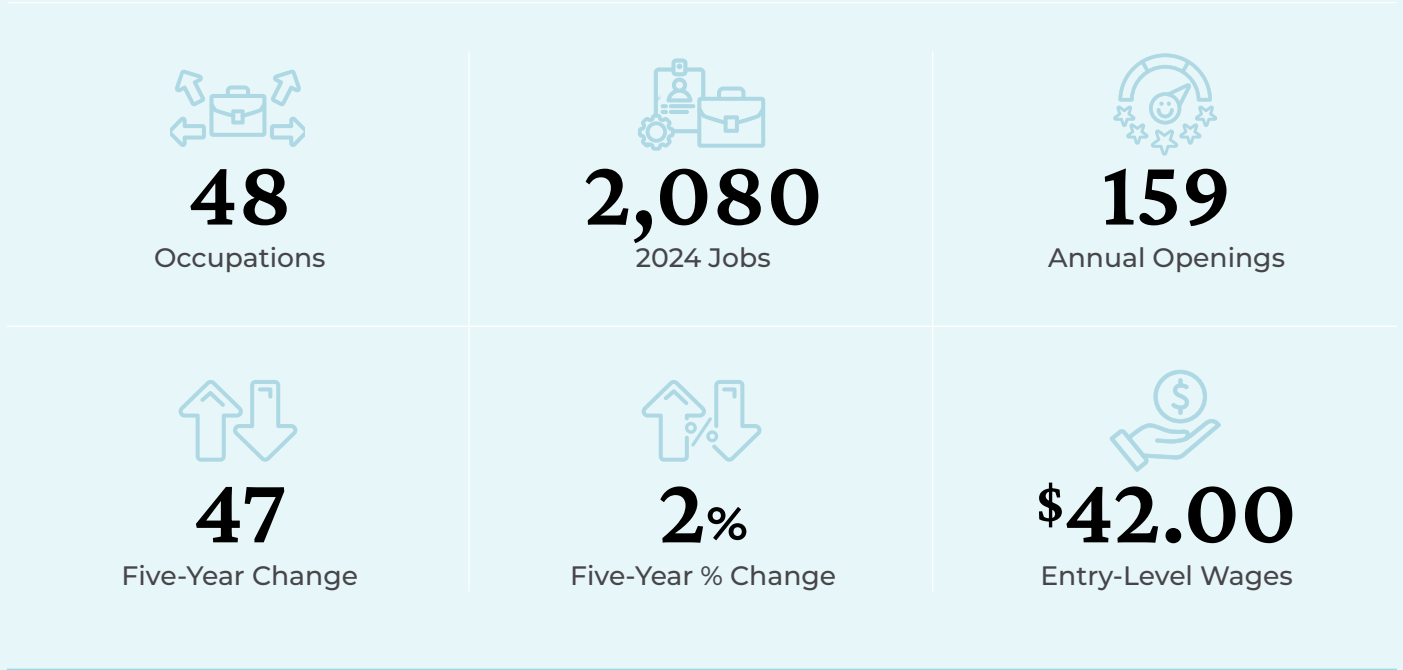
Exhibit 20: Health Awards (Degrees and Certificates)

Program Name (TOP)	AHJCCD 3-Year Average (2021–2024)	South Central Coast Region 3-Year Average (2021–2024)
Administrative Medical Assisting (1208.20)	8	42
Alcohol and Controlled Substances (2104.40)	63	175
Athletic Training and Sports Medicine (1228.00)	1	7
Certified Nurse Assistant (1230.30)	56	59
Clinical Medical Assisting (1208.10)	-	21
Dental Assistant (1240.10)	36	71
Dental Hygienist (1240.20)	-	17
Electrocardiography (1215.00)	21	21
Emergency Medical Services (1250.00)	65	295
Health Information Coding (1223.10)	-	38
Health Information Technology (1223.00)	-	74
Health Occupations, General (1201.00)	-	132
Home Health Aide (1230.80)	17	17
Hospital Central Service Technician (1209.00)	-	3
Licensed Vocational Nursing (1230.20)	65	130
Medical Assisting (1208.00)	18	63
Medical Laboratory Technology (1205.00)	-	15
Medical Office Technology (0514.20)	-	55
Nutrition, Foods, and Culinary Arts (1306.00)	14	43
Optical Technology (1219.00)	-	1
Other Health Occupations (1299.00)	-	1
Paramedic (1251.00)	12	67
Phlebotomy (1205.10)	-	45
Psychiatric Technician (1239.00)	-	59
Radiologic Technology (1225.00)	-	48
Registered Nursing (1230.10)	38	472
Respiratory Care/Therapy (1210.00)	-	16
Total	414	1,987

Source: California Community College Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems Data Mart. A dash (-) indicates no programs were offered under this TOP code and a zero (0) indicates a program is offered, but the three-year average of awards equaled less than one.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)/Digital Media

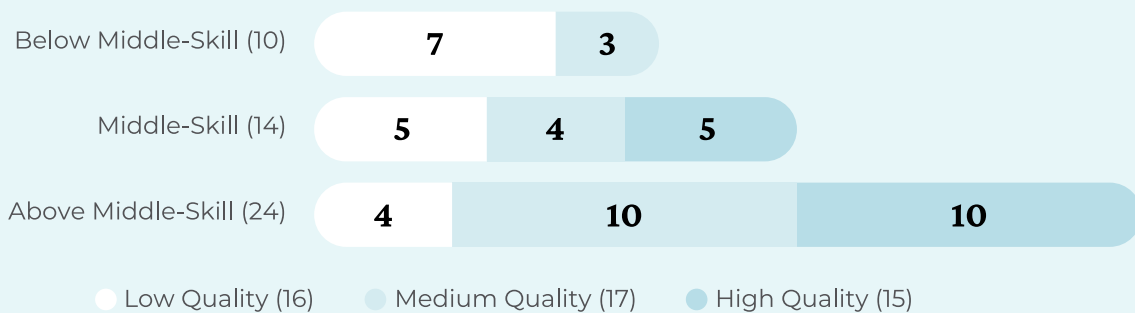
Labor Market Demand Data Points



Labor Market Supply Data Points



Job Quality by Occupational Skill Level



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)/DIGITAL MEDIA, CONTINUED

Demand

In 2024, there were 2,080 jobs across 48 ICT/Digital Media occupations in the district service area. Of those, 27% (557) are for middle-skill occupations. Of the 159 projected annual openings, 24% (38) are for middle-skill occupations. Exhibit 21 shows the number of jobs, annual openings, five-year employment change, and entry-level hourly wage for the 14 middle-skill occupations within the sector by job quality level.

LABOR MARKET SPOTLIGHT:

High Wages but Low Demand for ICT/Digital Media

Although this sector has the highest entry-level wages in the AHJCCD service area at \$42.00 per hour, it represents one of the smallest sectors in the regional economy. The sector accounts for only 2,080 jobs and 159 annual openings, significantly fewer than sectors such as Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies, Health, or Business and Entrepreneurship. This contrast highlights an important labor market dynamic in the region: some of the highest-paying occupations are concentrated within smaller, specialized sectors. Despite the limited number of openings, ICT/Digital Media occupations can provide pathways to economic mobility due to their high wages, but technical skills and hands-on experience may help students stand out compared to other jobseekers competing for these high-paying positions.

Exhibit 21: Current Employment, Projected Occupational Demand, and Entry-Level Wages for ICT/Digital Media Middle-Skill Occupations

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
High-Quality Jobs						
Computer User Support Specialists (15-1232)	223	220	(3)	(1%)	15	\$31.68
Network and Computer Systems Administrators (15-1244)	99	97	(2)	(2%)	5	\$39.71
Computer Network Support Specialists (15-1231)	33	34	1	3%	2	\$30.88
Computer Network Architects (15-1241)	29	29	0	0%	2	\$51.95
Web and Digital Interface Designers (15-1255)	34	34	0	0%	2	\$30.62
Medium-Quality Jobs						
Photographers (27-4021)	68	66	(2)	(3%)	6	\$16.14
Audio and Video Technicians (27-4011)	32	32	0	0%	3	\$21.87
Web Developers (15-1254)	15	15	0	0%	1	\$29.00
Choreographers (27-2032)	1	2	1	100%	0	\$15.68
Low-Quality Jobs						
Actors (27-2011)	12	12	0	0%	1	\$26.24
Sound Engineering Technicians (27-4014)	5	6	1	20%	1	\$19.66
Broadcast Technicians (27-4012)	3	3	0	0%	0	\$19.66

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)/DIGITAL MEDIA, CONTINUED

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
Desktop Publishers (43-9031)	1	0	(1)	(100%)	0	\$15.91
Camera and Photographic Equipment Repairers (49-9061)	2	2	0	0%	0	\$25.21
Total	557	552	(5)	(1%)	38	\$31.15

Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed

Supply

From 2021 to 2024, community colleges in the South Central Coast region awarded an average of 1,058 awards annually across 27 programs within the ICT/Digital Media sector, as shown in Exhibit 22. AHJCCD conferred an average of 194 awards each year, accounting for approximately 18% of all ICT/Digital Media awards in the SCC Region. The top-producing program at AHJCCD was Computer Information Systems (0702.00), with an average of 129 awards conferred annually.

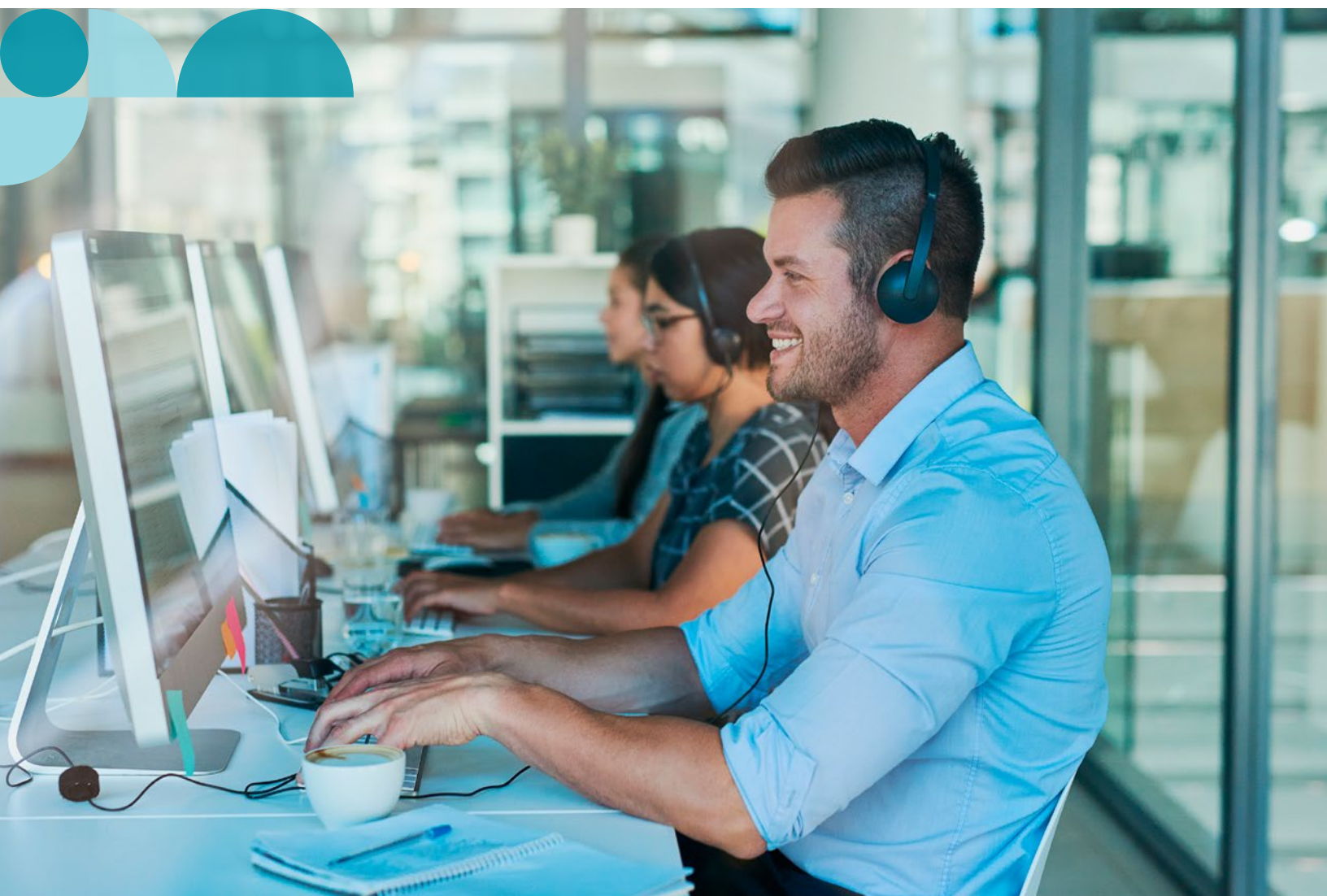
Exhibit 22: ICT/Digital Media Awards (Degrees and Certificates)

Program Name (TOP)	AHJCCD 3-Year Average (2021–2024)	South Central Coast Region 3-Year Average (2021–2024)
Animation (0614.40)	3	60
Applied Photography (1012.00)	6	54
Commercial Art (1013.00)	-	1
Commercial Music (1005.00)	4	38
Computer Graphics and Digital Imagery (0614.60)	-	34
Computer Information Systems (0702.00)	129	161
Computer Infrastructure and Support (0708.00)	-	95
Computer Networking (0708.10)	5	86
Computer Programming (0707.10)	-	17
Computer Software Development (0707.00)	-	1
Computer Support (0708.20)	-	10
Desktop Publishing (0614.50)	-	2
Digital Media (0614.00)	-	8
E-Commerce (Technology Emphasis) (0709.10)	-	1
Electronic Game Design (0614.20)	-	26
Film Production (0612.20)	3	35
Geographic Information Systems (2206.10)	-	2
Graphic Art and Design (1030.00)	9	73

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)/DIGITAL MEDIA, CONTINUED

Program Name (TOP)	AHJCCD 3-Year Average (2021–2024)	South Central Coast Region 3-Year Average (2021–2024)
Information Technology, General (0701.00)	0	1
Journalism (0602.00)	-	34
Multimedia (0614.10)	2	21
Office Technology/Office Computer Applications (0514.00)	31	105
Other Information Technology (0799.00)	-	1
Radio and Television (0604.00)	-	49
Software Applications (0702.10)	-	20
Television (including combined TV/Film/Video) (0604.20)	-	103
Website Design and Development (0614.30)	2	20
Total	194	1,058

Source: California Community College Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems Data Mart. A dash (-) indicates no programs were offered under this TOP code and a zero (0) indicates a program is offered, but the three-year average of awards equaled less than one.



Life Sciences and Biotechnology

Labor Market Demand Data Points



7

Occupations



542

2024 Jobs



60

Annual Openings



20

Five-Year Change



4%

Five-Year % Change



\$24.45

Entry-Level Wages

Labor Market Supply Data Points



0

Programs (TOP Codes)



0

Awards (2021-2024)



N/A

Top Program

Job Quality by Occupational Skill Level

Below Middle-Skill (0)

Middle-Skill (5)

1

4

Above Middle-Skill (2)

2

● Low Quality (1) ● Medium Quality (4) ● High Quality (2)

LIFE SCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY, CONTINUED

Demand

In 2024, there were 542 jobs across seven Life Sciences and Biotechnology occupations in the district service area. Of those, 84% (457) are for middle-skill occupations. Of the 60 projected annual openings, 88% (53) are for middle-skill occupations. Exhibit 23 shows the number of jobs, annual openings, five-year employment change, and entry-level hourly wage for the five middle-skill occupations within the sector by job quality level.

Exhibit 23: Current Employment, Projected Occupational Demand, and Entry-Level Wages for Life Sciences and Biotechnology Middle-Skill Occupations

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
Medium-Quality Jobs						
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers (51-9061)	288	295	7	2%	36	\$21.49
Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians (29-2018)	83	86	3	4%	6	\$21.20
Chemical Technicians (19-4031)	27	32	5	19%	4	\$22.49
Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians, All Other (19-4099)	31	33	2	6%	4	\$22.11
Low-Quality Jobs						
Medical Equipment Repairers (49-9062)	28	28	0	0%	3	\$23.56
Total	457	474	17	4%	53	\$21.67

Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed

Supply

From 2021 to 2024, community colleges in the South Central Coast region awarded an average of 12 awards annually across one program within the Life Sciences and Biotechnology sector, as shown in Exhibit 24. AHJCCD did not confer any awards between 2021 to 2024.

Exhibit 24: Life Sciences and Biotechnology Awards (Degrees and Certificates)

Program Name (TOP)	AHJCCD 3-Year Average (2021–2024)	South Central Coast Region 3-Year Average (2021–2024)
Biotechnology and Biomedical Technology (0430.00)	-	12

Source: California Community College Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems Data Mart. A dash (-) indicates no programs were offered under this TOP code and a zero (0) indicates a program is offered, but the three-year average of awards equaled less than one.

Other/Unassigned

Labor Market Demand Data Points



95

Occupations



9,554

2024 Jobs



1,420

Annual Openings



119

Five-Year Change



1%

Five-Year % Change



\$21.25

Entry-Level Wages

Labor Market Supply Data Points



4

Programs
(TOP Codes)



47

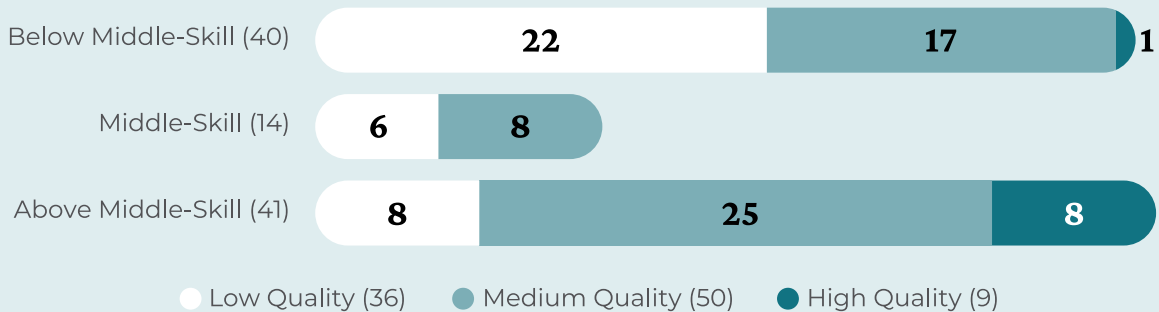
Awards
(2021-2024)



Human Services

Top Program

Job Quality by Occupational Skill Level



OTHER/UNASSIGNED, CONTINUED

Demand

In 2024, there were 9,554 jobs across 95 Other/Unassigned occupations in the district service area. Of those, 7% (661) are for middle-skill occupations. Of the 1,420 projected annual openings, 7% (99) are for middle-skill occupations. Exhibit 25 shows the number of jobs, annual openings, five-year employment change, and entry-level hourly wage for the 14 middle-skill occupations within the sector by job quality level.

Exhibit 25: Current Employment, Projected Occupational Demand, and Entry-Level Wages for Other/Unassigned Middle-Skill Occupations

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
Medium-Quality Jobs						
Exercise Trainers and Group Fitness Instructors (39-9031)	204	225	21	10%	44	\$18.21
Paralegals and Legal Assistants (23-2011)	116	117	1	1%	12	\$27.13
Library Technicians (25-4031)	70	68	(2)	(3%)	12	\$21.20
Court, Municipal, and License Clerks (43-4031)	79	82	3	4%	9	\$25.02
Legal Secretaries and Administrative Assistants (43-6012)	53	52	(1)	(2%)	7	\$22.95
Interpreters and Translators (27-3091)	47	45	(2)	(4%)	4	\$22.03
Legal Support Workers, All Other (23-2099)	24	25	1	4%	3	\$31.09
Postmasters and Mail Superintendents (11-9131)	21	19	(2)	(10%)	2	\$51.55
Low-Quality Jobs						
Computer, Automated Teller, and Office Machine Repairers (49-2011)	21	19	(2)	(10%)	2	\$18.90
Jewelers and Precious Stone and Metal Workers (51-9071)	15	13	(2)	(13%)	2	\$13.52
Social Science Research Assistants (19-4061)	3	4	1	33%	1	\$27.38
Locksmiths and Safe Repairers (49-9094)	4	4	0	0%	1	\$18.42
Musical Instrument Repairers and Tuners (49-9063)	3	2	(1)	(33%)	0	\$10.52
Watch and Clock Repairers (49-9064)	1	1	0	0%	0	\$10.99
Total	661	676	15	2%	99	\$23.00

Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed

OTHER/UNASSIGNED, CONTINUED

Supply

From 2021 to 2024, community colleges in the South Central Coast region awarded an average of 354 awards annually across 11 programs within the Other/Unassigned sector, as shown in Exhibit 26. AHJCCD conferred an average of 47 awards each year, accounting for approximately 13% of all Other/Unassigned awards in the SCC Region. The top-producing program at AHJCCD was Human Services (2104.00), with an average of 31 awards conferred annually.

Exhibit 26: Other/Unassigned Awards (Degrees and Certificates)

Program Name (TOP)	AHJCCD 3-Year Average (2021–2024)	South Central Coast Region 3-Year Average (2021–2024)
Commercial Dance (1008.10)	0	0
Fitness Trainer (0835.20)	-	25
General Work Experience (4932.00)	-	10
Human Services (2104.00)	31	105
Legal and Community Interpretation (2140.00)	-	15
Library Technician (Aide) (1602.00)	-	59
Other Engineering and Related Industrial Technologies (0999.00)	-	0
Other Fine and Applied Arts (1099.00)	-	0
Paralegal (1402.00)	14	118
Technical Theater (1006.00)	2	11
Vocational ESL (4931.00)	-	11
Total	47	354

Source: California Community College Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems Data Mart. A dash (-) indicates no programs were offered under this TOP code and a zero (0) indicates a program is offered, but the three-year average of awards equaled less than one.



Public Safety

Labor Market Demand Data Points



25
Occupations



2,287
2024 Jobs



273
Annual Openings



-1
Five-Year Change



-0.04%
Five-Year % Change



\$34.48
Entry-Level Wages

Labor Market Supply Data Points



5
Programs
(TOP Codes)

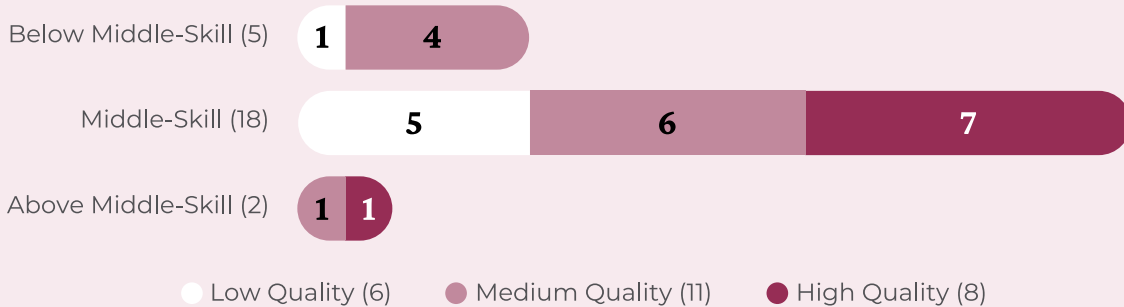


218
Awards
(2021-2024)



**Administration
of Justice**
Top Program

Job Quality by Occupational Skill Level



PUBLIC SAFETY, CONTINUED

Demand

In 2024, there were 2,287 jobs across 25 Public Safety occupations in the district service area. Of those, 80% (1,838) are for middle-skill occupations. Of the 273 projected annual openings, 65% (177) are for middle-skill occupations. Exhibit 27 shows the number of jobs, annual openings, five-year employment change, and entry-level hourly wage for the 18 middle-skill occupations within the sector by job quality level.

Exhibit 27: Current Employment, Projected Occupational Demand, and Entry-Level Wages for Public Safety Middle-Skill Occupations

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
High-Quality Jobs						
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers (33-3051)	483	492	9	2%	40	\$47.95
Correctional Officers and Jailers (33-3012)	298	290	(8)	(3%)	26	\$38.78
Firefighters (33-2011)	191	199	8	4%	16	\$31.60
Forensic Science Technicians (19-4092)	71	75	4	6%	10	\$34.16
Public Safety Telecommunicators (43-5031)	61	66	5	8%	8	\$30.05
First-Line Supervisors of Firefighting and Prevention Workers (33-1021)	99	101	2	2%	7	\$47.49
First-Line Supervisors of Police and Detectives (33-1012)	83	84	1	1%	6	\$69.19
Medium-Quality Jobs						
Security Guards (33-9032)	385	351	(34)	(9%)	48	\$17.37
First-Line Supervisors of Correctional Officers (33-1011)	53	53	0	0%	4	\$39.66
Detectives and Criminal Investigators (33-3021)	28	30	2	7%	3	\$51.95
First-Line Supervisors of Protective Service Workers, All Other (33-1099)	9	10	1	11%	1	\$35.92
Fish and Game Wardens (33-3031)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$33.53
Transit and Railroad Police (33-3052)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$49.40
Low-Quality Jobs						
Transportation Security Screeners (33-9093)	43	45	2	5%	5	\$27.40
First-Line Supervisors of Security Workers (33-1091)	19	17	(2)	(11%)	2	\$23.36
Private Detectives and Investigators (33-9021)	13	13	0	0%	1	\$23.69
Bailiffs (33-3011)	0	0	0	0%	0	N/A
Gambling Surveillance Officers and Gambling Investigators (33-9031)	2	2	0	0%	0	\$19.14
Total	1,838	1,828	(10)	(1%)	177	\$36.99

Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed

PUBLIC SAFETY, CONTINUED

Supply

From 2021 to 2024, community colleges in the South Central Coast region awarded an average of 1,065 awards annually across five programs within the Public Safety sector, as shown in Exhibit 28. AHJCCD conferred an average of 218 awards each year, accounting for approximately 20% of all Public Safety awards in the SCC Region. The top-producing program at AHJCCD was Administration of Justice (2105.00), with an average of 70 awards conferred annually.

Exhibit 28: Public Safety Awards (Degrees and Certificates)

Program Name (TOP)	AHJCCD 3-Year Average (2021–2024)	South Central Coast Region 3-Year Average (2021–2024)
Administration of Justice (2105.00)	70	627
Fire Academy (2133.50)	50	95
Fire Technology (2133.00)	56	223
Police Academy (2105.50)	35	107
Wildland Fire Technology (2133.10)	7	13
Total	218	1,065

Source: California Community College Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems Data Mart. A dash (-) indicates no programs were offered under this TOP code and a zero (0) indicates a program is offered, but the three-year average of awards equaled less than one.



Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism

Labor Market Demand Data Points



49

Occupations



12,897

2024 Jobs



2,368

Annual Openings



635

Five-Year Change



5%

Five-Year % Change



\$17.73

Entry-Level Wages

Labor Market Supply Data Points



6

Programs
(TOP Codes)



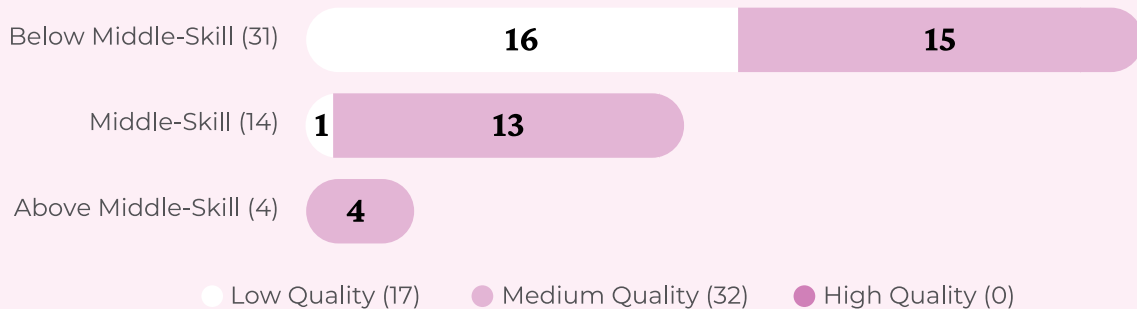
52

Awards
(2021-2024)



Fashion
Top Program

Job Quality by Occupational Skill Level



RETAIL, HOSPITALITY, AND TOURISM, CONTINUED

Demand

In 2024, there were 12,897 jobs across 49 Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism occupations in the district service area. Of those, 16% (2,097) are for middle-skill occupations. Of the 2,368 projected annual openings, 11% (272) are for middle-skill occupations. Exhibit 29 shows the number of jobs, annual openings, five-year employment change, and entry-level hourly wage for the 14 middle-skill occupations within the sector by job quality level.

Exhibit 29: Current Employment, Projected Occupational Demand, and Entry-Level Wages for Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Middle-Skill Occupations

Occupation (SOC)	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024–2029 Change	2024–2029 % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Wage
Medium-Quality Jobs						
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers (35-1012)	591	640	49	8%	98	\$20.59
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers (41-1011)	803	792	(11)	(1%)	79	\$19.81
Food Service Managers (11-9051)	201	210	9	4%	25	\$23.72
Chefs and Head Cooks (35-1011)	162	174	12	7%	22	\$27.38
First-Line Supervisors of Housekeeping and Janitorial Workers (37-1011)	113	120	7	6%	15	\$19.29
Tour and Travel Guides (39-7018)	32	36	4	13%	9	\$16.29
First-Line Supervisors of Entertainment and Recreation Workers, Except Gambling Services (39-1014)	68	71	3	4%	8	\$20.95
First-Line Supervisors of Personal Service Workers (39-1022)	54	59	5	9%	7	\$19.90
Lodging Managers (11-9081)	49	53	4	8%	6	\$29.08
Travel Agents (41-3041)	20	21	1	5%	3	\$16.22
Gambling Managers (11-9071)	1	1	0	0%	0	\$33.03
First-Line Supervisors of Gambling Services Workers (39-1013)	1	1	0	0%	0	\$25.71
Flight Attendants (53-2031)	2	1	(1)	(50%)	0	\$30.84
Low-Quality Jobs						
Cooks, Private Household (35-2013)	0	0	0	0%	0	\$18.16
Total	2,097	2,179	82	4%	272	\$21.15

Source: Lightcast 2025.3, QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self Employed

RETAIL, HOSPITALITY, AND TOURISM, CONTINUED

Supply

From 2021 to 2024, community colleges in the South Central Coast region awarded an average of 268 awards annually across 11 programs within the Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism sector, as shown in Exhibit 30. AHJCCD conferred an average of 52 awards each year, accounting for approximately 19% of all Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism awards in the SCC Region. The top-producing program at AHJCCD was Fashion (1303.00), with an average of 14 awards conferred annually.

Exhibit 30: Retail, Hospitality, and Tourism Awards (Degrees and Certificates)

Program Name (TOP)	AHJCCD 3-Year Average (2021–2024)	South Central Coast Region 3-Year Average (2021–2024)
Culinary Arts (1306.30)	11	132
Diving and Underwater Safety (0959.10)	-	7
Family and Consumer Sciences, General (1301.00)	-	0
Fashion (1303.00)	14	15
Hospitality (1307.00)	6	31
Interior Design and Merchandising (1302.00)	4	42
Lodging Management (1307.20)	-	3
Office Management (0514.40)	7	23
Public Relations (0606.00)	-	1
Restaurant and Food Services and Management (1307.10)	10	13
Retail Store Operations and Management (0506.50)	-	1
Total	52	268

Source: California Community College Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems Data Mart. A dash (-) indicates no programs were offered under this TOP code and a zero (0) indicates a program is offered, but the three-year average of awards equaled less than one.



• Appendix A: Data Sources and Methodology

Service Area ZIP Codes

The SCC COE used the ZIP codes listed in Exhibit 31 to define the AHJCCD service area.

Exhibit 31: Allan Hancock Joint Community College District Service Area ZIP Codes

ZIP Code	City	County
93254	New Cuyama	Santa Barbara
93427	Buellton	Santa Barbara
93429	Casmalia	Santa Barbara
93434	Guadalupe	Santa Barbara
93436	Lompoc	Santa Barbara
93437	Lompoc	Santa Barbara
93438	Lompoc	Santa Barbara
93440	Los Alamos	Santa Barbara
93441	Los Olivos	Santa Barbara
93454	Santa Maria	Santa Barbara
93455	Santa Maria	Santa Barbara
93456	Santa Maria	Santa Barbara
93457	Santa Maria	Santa Barbara
93458	Santa Maria	Santa Barbara
93460	Santa Ynez	Santa Barbara
93463	Solvang	Santa Barbara
93464	Solvang	Santa Barbara



APPENDIX A: DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY, CONTINUED

Demographic Data

To analyze household and population characteristics, the SCC COE used data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), which is a nationwide survey that provides detailed population and housing information. When referencing ZIP code-level data, the ACS does not use USPS ZIP Codes but instead uses ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs). These ZCTAs enable mapping and demographic analysis and are geographic representations developed by the Census Bureau to approximate U.S. Postal Service ZIP codes. However, please note that although these estimates closely resemble ZIP codes, they may not be an exact match and should be interpreted as generalized geographic areas. To produce reliable statistics for geographic areas, ACS publishes 5-year estimates which combine data collected over a five-year period. These estimates are more statistically stable than 1-year estimates, particularly for smaller populations. The data analyzed in this District Profile comes from the ACS 2019–2024 5-year estimates for 2019–2024, the most recent years of data available. For more information, visit the ACS website.¹

Definitions for the data analyzed in this report include:

- **Educational Attainment** — educational attainment for individuals 25 years and over refers to the highest level of education completed.
- **Foster Youth** — the percentage of children living in households that are foster children. A foster child is a person under 21 years old and involved in the formal foster care system.
- **People with Disabilities** — the percentage of the population with a disability, as determined based on responses to six questions that identify serious difficulty in the following areas: (1) hearing, (2) vision, (3) cognitive, (4) ambulatory, (5) self-care, and (6) independent living.
- **Veterans** — the percentage of the civilian population that is 18 years and over that are Veterans. Veterans are men and women who have served, but are not currently serving, on active duty in the military.
- **Limited English Proficient Households** — the percentage of households in which no member 14 years old and over (1) speaks only English at home or (2) speaks a language other than English at home and speaks English "Very well."
- **Single Parent Households** — the percentage of family households with one or more people under 18 years and where no spouse is present.
- **Median Household Income** — the median household income in the past 12 months, in 2024 inflation-adjusted dollars.
- **Income Below Poverty Line** — the percentage of households that had income in the past 12 months below the poverty level.
- **Not in Labor Force** — the percentage of women and men age 16 and over who are neither employed nor actively seeking work.

For more information regarding these definitions, visit the ACS 2024 Subject Definitions.²

APPENDIX A: DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY, CONTINUED

Labor Market Data

Demand

The labor market demand data included throughout this report was sourced from Lightcast (2025.3), a labor market analytics firm. The SCC COE analyzed data by ZIP code to understand the local labor market of each district service area in the SCC Region. The definitions for the data points included in this report are:

- **2024 Jobs** — the number of jobs in 2024.
- **2029 Jobs** — the projected number of jobs in 2024.
- **2024–2029 Change** — the projected change in employment. A positive number indicates employment is projected to increase, while a negative number indicates employment is projected to decrease.
- **2024–2029 % Change** — the projected change in employment, expressed as a percentage. A positive percentage indicates employment is projected to increase, while a negative percentage indicates employment is projected to decrease.
- **Annual Openings (Demand)** — the projected number of annual job openings from 2024–2029. This figure takes into account new job creation, as well as turnover due to retirements or workers leaving the field.
- **Living Wage (Self-Sufficiency Standard)** — this figure “measures the floor income necessary for an individual or family to afford basic expenses.” The California Self-Sufficiency Standard Living Wage was last updated in 2024 and is currently \$29.80 for Santa Barbara County.
- **Living Wage (MIT)** — this figure “measures what one full-time worker must earn on an hourly basis to help cover the cost of their family’s minimum basic needs where they live while still being self-sufficient.” The SCC COE used the 2025 MIT Living Wage, which is \$30.98 for Santa Barbara County.
- **Entry-Level Wages** — the 25th percentile wage for an occupation; 25% of workers in an occupation make less than this amount, while 75% make more. To calculate district-level entry-level wages, the SCC COE analyzed wage data by ZIP code, then weighted the wage data by the number of 2024 jobs.

For this report, data for 2024 Jobs, 2029 Jobs, and Annual Openings (Demand) was rounded to the nearest whole number. The SCC COE calculated the 2024–2029 Change as both a number and percentage using the rounded figures. Wages were rounded to two decimal places. For these reasons, some numbers throughout this District Profile may not add to the exact total presented. Any discrepancies throughout the exhibits are due to rounding.

Job Quality Level

The SCC COE examined 796 occupational codes within the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. After removing five occupations for which data was unavailable, the SCC COE analyzed 791 occupations in the SCC Region.

To classify each occupation as High, Medium, or Low Quality, the SCC COE identified nine criteria, five of which are considered traditional labor market information indicators (Traditional LMI Indicators) and four of which are considered Job Quality Indicators. These criteria were used to determine occupations that have significant employment and demand, pay at or above the living wage, typically provide employer-sponsored health insurance and full-time hours, have a lower risk of automation, and are considered a “Best Job” by U.S. News & World Report. The full methodology is available in the SCC COE’s [South Central Coast Labor Market Landscape: Assessing Job Quality in the SCC Region](#) report. Criteria for all SCC counties is available [here](#).

APPENDIX A: DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY, CONTINUED

Occupational Skill Level

The SCC COE categorized each of the 796 occupations within the BLS's SOC system into three occupational skill levels for the purpose of capturing occupations that align with different education and experience levels. Middle-skill occupations include:

- All occupations that require an educational requirement of some college, associate degree or an on-the-job training requirement of 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
- Occupations with a typical entry-level education of high school diploma or equivalent AND typically require long-term on-the-job training
- Exceptions were made for select occupations with a typical entry-level education of high school diploma or equivalent or no formal education plus short or moderate on-the-job training based on a review by the Centers of Excellence.

Below middle-skill occupations include those that have a typical entry-level education of a high school diploma or no formal educational credential and are not included in the middle-skill exceptions above while above middle-skill includes occupations include those that have a typical-entry level education of a bachelor's degree or higher (with exceptions as noted above in middle skill definition).

Occupational Sectors


The SCC COE categorized each of the 796 occupations within the BLS's SOC system using a SOC-Sector crosswalk that matches BLS SOC codes to CCCCCO Sectors. Occupations were assigned to sectors based on this crosswalk. It is important to note that this crosswalk is a 1:1 crosswalk, meaning that each individual SOC code is assigned to one sector.

Supply


Supply data was sourced from the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) DataMart and includes awards conferred by Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) code for each SCC Region district. It is important to note that supply data includes only the number of **awards** that were conferred and does not consider enrollment figures. The SCC COE took a three-year average of awards conferred between 2021 and 2024 to create a supply estimate by TOP code.

The TOP codes in this report are those for which at least one SCC Region community college conferred awards from 2021 to 2024. Programs that were approved and launched during this period may not be captured due to their recency. Though educational programs may train students for multiple occupations, TOP codes were exclusively assigned to one sector for the purposes of measuring supply in this report. Consequently, the supply from each TOP code was tallied only once and counted within the sector it is assigned by the CCCCCO, as outlined in the [CTE TOP Codes to Sectors](#). Sector exceptions were made for the following TOP codes:

- **International Business and Trade (0508.00):** The CCCCCO assigned this TOP code to the Global Trade sector. For the purposes of this report, the SCC COE assigned this TOP code to the Business and Entrepreneurship sector.
- **Surveying (0957.30):** The CCCCCO assigned this TOP code to the Advanced Manufacturing sector. For the purposes of this report, the SCC COE assigned this TOP code to the Energy, Construction and Utilities sector.



“Strategically located in Santa Maria, with additional educational centers serving Lompoc and the Santa Ynez Valley, the Allan Hancock Joint Community College District connects students to the opportunities throughout the Central Coast region while serving the unique educational and workforce needs of the local community.”



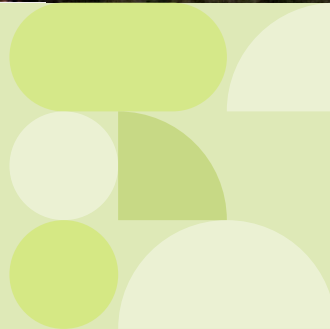
• Appendix B: Endnotes

- 1 US Census Bureau, "American Community Survey (ACS)," Census.gov, last modified September 4, 2025, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs.html>.
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- 11 "High-Quality Occupations Profile: Santa Barbara County," South Central Coast Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research, last modified November 2025, <https://coecc.net/south-central-coast/2025/09/high-quality-occupations-profile-santa-barbara-county/>.
- 12 Labor market data presented in this profile is sourced from the economic modeling firm and job postings aggregator Lightcast. Data source: Lightcast 2025.3; QCEW, non-QCEW, and Self-Employed.

APPENDIX B: ENDNOTES, CONTINUED



“Through strong partnerships with industry, K-12 schools, and community organizations, AHJCCD advances student success, economic growth, and lifelong learning across the region. The AHJCCD service area is one of the most affordable across the entire Central Coast and is shaped by a strong agricultural economy.”



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

Important Disclaimers

All representations included in this report have been produced from primary research and/or secondary review of publicly and/or privately available data and/or research reports. This study examines the most recent data available at the time of the analysis; however, data sets are updated regularly and may not be consistent with previous reports. Efforts have been made to qualify and validate the accuracy of the data and the report findings; however, neither the Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE), COE host district, nor California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office are responsible for the applications or decisions made by individuals and/or organizations based on this study or its recommendations.



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