



Labor Market Analysis: 0512.00 – Insurance

Insurance – Certificate requiring 16 to fewer than 30 semester units

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, January 2026

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met	☐	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met	☒	Not Endorsed	☐
Program Endorsement Criteria						
Supply Gap:	Yes	☒	No	☐		
Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25 th)	Yes	☐	No	☒		
Education:	Yes	☒	No	☐		
Emerging Occupation(s)						
Yes			☐	No		
				☒		

SUMMARY

This report analyzes whether local labor market demand is being met by community college programs aligned with the identified middle-skill occupations¹ or whether a shortage of workers exists. Labor market demand is measured by annual job openings while education supply is measured by the number of awards (degrees and certificates) conferred on average each year.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for the three identified middle-skill occupations in the region. While the majority of annual openings have entry-level wages that are below the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, more than one-third of current workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of education.

Recommendation: Due to two or three program endorsement criteria being met, the Los Angeles Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (LA COE) endorses this proposed program.

Key Findings

Supply Gap

- 2,561 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2029. This number is greater than the three-year average of 15 awards conferred by educational institutions in the region.

¹ Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree. The COE classifies middle-skill jobs as the following:

- All occupations that require an educational requirement of some college, associate degree or 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
- All occupations that require a high school diploma or equivalent or no formal education, but also require short- to long-term on-the-job training where multiple community colleges have existing programs.

Living Wage

- 78% of annual job openings for these middle-skill insurance occupations have entry-level wages **below** Los Angeles County's self-sufficiency standard hourly wage (\$24.03/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- 99% of the annual job openings typically require a high school diploma or equivalent for middle-skill occupations related to insurance in the LA/OC region.
- 34%-36% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, according to national educational attainment data.

Community college supply

- 4 community colleges issued awards related to insurance in the greater LA/OC region.
- 15 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2022 and 2024.

Other postsecondary supply

- Currently, there are no other postsecondary institutions in the greater LA/OC region that have conferred sub-baccalaureate awards for insurance-focused programs in the past three years.

TARGET OCCUPATIONS

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market and postsecondary supply data related to three middle-skill occupations. [For full occupation descriptions, please see Appendix.](#)

- **Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators (13-1031)**³
- **Insurance Appraisers, Auto Damage (13-1032)**⁴
- **Insurance Sales Agents (41-3021)**⁵

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for these middle-skill insurance occupations. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to decrease by 4% through 2029. However, there will be nearly 2,600 job openings per year through 2029 due to retirements and workers leaving the field. The majority of jobs in 2024 for these middle-skill insurance occupations (67%) were located in Los Angeles County.

² Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. (2024). *The self-sufficiency standard for California 2024*. <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/California>.

³ [Claims Adjusters, Appraisers, Examiners, and Investigators \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁴ [Ibid.](#)

⁵ [Insurance Sales Agents \(bls.gov\)](#)

Exhibit 1: Current employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles and Orange counties⁶

Geography	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024-2029 Change	2024-2029 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	22,657	21,973	(684)	(3%)	1,722
Orange	11,175	10,624	(551)	(5%)	839
Total	33,832	32,597	(1,235)	(4%)	2,561

Detailed Occupation Data

Exhibit 2 displays the current employment and projected occupational demand for each of the target occupations in Los Angeles County. The average percentage of workers aged 55+ across all occupations in the Los Angeles/Orange County region is 26%; occupations with a larger share of workers aged 55 and older typically have greater replacement needs to offset the amount of impending retirements. On average, 81% of workers across all occupations in California are employed full-time.

Exhibit 2: Detailed employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles County⁷

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Aged 55 and older	% Full Time Workers
Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators	5,874	5,251	(11%)	377	25%	100%
Insurance Appraisers, Auto Damage	103	92	(11%)	7	19%	100%
Insurance Sales Agents	16,679	16,629	(0%)	1,338	35%	100%
Total	22,657	21,973	(3%)	1,722	-	-

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for these middle-skill insurance occupations in Los Angeles County as they relate to the county's self-sufficiency standard wage. Orange County wages are included below in order to provide a complete analysis of the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region.

Los Angeles County

The majority, 77%, of annual openings for middle-skill insurance occupations have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$24.03 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$21.03 and \$35.36. (**Exhibit 3**).

⁶ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

⁷ Ibid.

Two occupations have entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage:

- *Claims adjusters, examiners, and investigators*, \$35.36
- *Insurance appraisers, auto damage*, \$27.52

Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$38.84 and \$53.00, which are higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

Exhibit 3: Earnings for occupations in Los Angeles County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators	\$35.36	\$43.04	\$49.44	\$89,500
Insurance Appraisers, Auto Damage	\$27.52	\$36.74	\$38.84	\$76,400
Insurance Sales Agents	\$21.03	\$30.25	\$53.00	\$62,900

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Orange County

The majority, 79%, of annual openings for middle-skill insurance occupations have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$27.13 in Orange County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$22.41 and \$34.86 (**Exhibit 4**).

Two occupations have entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage:

- *Claims adjusters, examiners, and investigators*, \$34.86
- *Insurance appraisers, auto damage*, \$27.80

Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$38.71 and \$55.91, which are higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

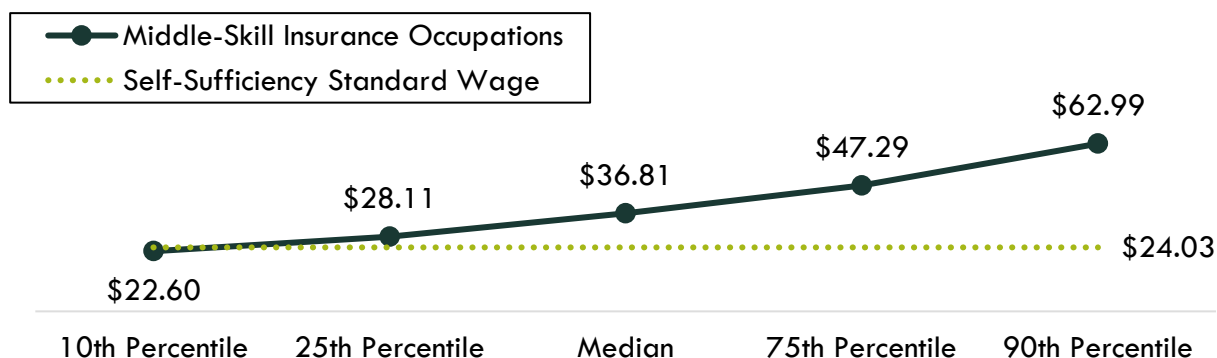
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupations in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators	\$34.86	\$42.37	\$48.65	\$88,100
Insurance Appraisers, Auto Damage	\$27.80	\$36.80	\$38.71	\$76,500
Insurance Sales Agents	\$22.41	\$32.01	\$55.91	\$66,600

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Across the greater Los Angeles and Orange County region, the average entry-level hourly earnings for the occupations in this report are \$28.11; this is above the living wage for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$24.03). **Exhibit 5** shows the average hourly wage for the occupations in this report, for entry-level to experienced workers.

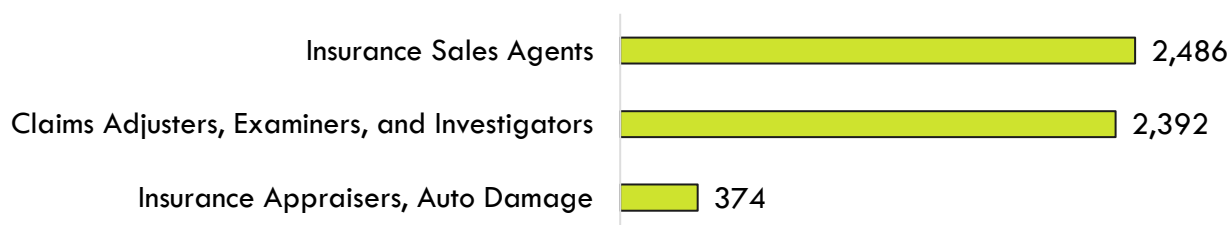
Exhibit 5: Average hourly earnings for target occupations, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

There were 5,252 online job postings related to middle-skill insurance occupations listed in the past 12 months in Los Angeles and Orange counties. **Exhibit 6** displays the number of job postings by occupation. The majority of job postings (47%) were for *insurance sales agents*, followed by *claims adjusters, examiners, and investigators* (46%) and *insurance appraisers, auto damage* (7%).

Exhibit 6: Job postings by occupation (last 12 months), Los Angeles and Orange counties



Job postings were analyzed for the most common job titles, skills, and employers associated with the target occupations in this report (**Exhibit 7**).

Exhibit 7: Most commonly requested job titles, skills and employers in job postings, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Top Job Titles	Top Skills	Top Employers
• Insurance agents • Commercial lines account managers • Claims examiners • Call center customer service agents • Insurance sales agents • Insurance sales representatives	• Insurance sales • Claims processing • Claims resolution • Marketing • Lawsuits • Underwriting • Subrogation • Adjudication	• Sedgwick • Freeway Insurance Services America • Progressive • State Farm • Insurance Relief* • Farmers Insurance • GPAC*

*Staffing company

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 47% of the target job postings listed a minimum educational requirement. **Exhibit 8** details the number and percentage of job postings by educational level.

Exhibit 8: Education levels requested in job postings for target occupations, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
Bachelor's degree	1,079	44%
Associate degree	213	9%
High school diploma or vocational training	1,174	47%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the majority of annual job openings (99%) typically require a high school diploma or equivalent (**Exhibit 9**). However, the national-level data indicates between 34% and 36% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists the following typical entry-level education levels for the occupations in this report:

Exhibit 9: Entry-level education preferred by employers nationally, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Occupation	Education Level
Insurance Appraisers, Auto Damage	Postsecondary non-degree award
Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators	High school diploma or equivalent
Insurance sales agents	High school diploma or equivalent

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLY**Community College Supply**

Exhibit 10 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP code: Insurance (0512.00). The colleges with the most completions in the region are LA Valley and LA Pierce. Currently, there are no other postsecondary institutions in the greater LA/OC region that have conferred sub-baccalaureate awards in the CIP code most aligned with training for middle-skill insurance occupations: Insurance (52.1710).

Exhibit 10: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2022-2024

Exhibit 101 Regional Community College Awards (Continued) and deg.ccc// 2022-2023						
TOP Code	Program	College	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Average
0512.00	Insurance	Glendale	1	-	4	2
		LA Pierce	2	6	6	5
		LA Valley	13	5	-	6
		Santa Monica	1	1	7	3
		LA Subtotal	17	12	17	15
Supply Total/Average			17	12	17	15

Exhibit 11 displays the community college awards broken down by award type. In this case, the majority of awards issued by community colleges are certificates (53%).

Exhibit 11: Community college awards by award type, 2022-2024

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
A.A./A.S. degrees	1	7%
Certificates	8	53%
Noncredit awards	6	40%
Total	15	100%

APPENDIX: OCCUPATION DESCRIPTIONS

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market supply and demand data related to these target occupations:

- **Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators (13-1031)** Review settled claims to determine that payments and settlements are made in accordance with company practices and procedures. Confer with legal counsel on claims requiring litigation. May also settle insurance claims.⁸
- **Insurance Appraisers, Auto Damage (13-1032)** Appraise automobile or other vehicle damage to determine repair costs for insurance claim settlement. Prepare insurance forms to indicate repair cost or cost estimates and recommendations. May seek agreement with automotive repair shop on repair costs.⁹
- **Insurance Sales Agents (41-3021)** Sell life, property, casualty, health, automotive, or other types of insurance. May refer clients to independent brokers, work as an independent broker, or be employed by an insurance company.¹⁰

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DATA SOURCES

- O*NET Online
- Lightcast (formerly Emsi)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- Self-Sufficiency Standard at the Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington
- Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI 2.0)

Important Disclaimer: 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. Efforts have been made to qualify and validate the accuracy of the data and the reported findings; however, neither the Centers of Excellence, COE host District, nor California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office are responsible for applications or decisions made by recipient community colleges or their representatives based upon components or recommendations contained in this study.

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⁸ [Claims Adjusters, Appraisers, Examiners, and Investigators \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁹ [Ibid.](#)

¹⁰ [Insurance Sales Agents \(bls.gov\)](#)