

Sheet Metal Workers

Labor Market Analysis: Imperial County

June 2026

Summary

NEW PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION?	EVIDENCE OF A SUPPLY GAP?	AT OR ABOVE THE LIVING WAGE?	EXPECTED LEVEL OF EDUCATION
 Proceed with Caution	 	 	☐ Doctorate Degree ☐ Master's Degree ☐ Bachelor's Degree ☐ Associate Degree ☐ Some College or Certificate ☒ HS Diploma or Equivalent ☐ Less Than a HS Diploma ☐ Apprenticeship
SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM MODIFICATION?	NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS THAT PROVIDE TRAINING	NUMBER OF ANNUAL JOB OPENINGS	
 	LOW 	LOW 	

The San Diego & Imperial Center of Excellence (COE) developed this brief to assist the region’s community colleges with strategic planning and program development. According to available data, *Sheet Metal Workers* in Imperial County have a labor market demand of three annual job openings (while average demand for a single occupation in Imperial County is 14 annual job openings), and one institution supplies zero awards for this occupation, suggesting that there is a supply gap in the labor market. Entry-level wages are above the living wage. This brief recommends that colleges proceed with caution when developing a new program for this occupation and supports a program modification because 1) there is a supply gap; 2) a low number of annual job openings exist for this occupation; 3) no institution in Imperial County supplies awards for this occupation. Additionally, colleges should note that the expected level of education is a high school diploma or equivalent.

Introduction

This report provides labor market information in Imperial County for the following occupational code in the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)¹ system:

Sheet Metal Workers (SOC 47-2211): Fabricate, assemble, install, and repair sheet metal products and equipment, such as ducts, control boxes, drainpipes, and furnace casings. Work may involve any of the following: setting up and operating fabricating machines to cut, bend, and straighten sheet metal; shaping metal over anvils, blocks, or forms using hammer; operating soldering and welding equipment to join sheet metal parts; or inspecting, assembling, and smoothing seams and joints of burred surfaces. Includes sheet metal duct installers who install prefabricated sheet metal ducts used for heating, air conditioning, or other purposes. Sample reported job titles include:

- Sheet Metal Mechanic
- Sheet Metal Installer
- Sheet Metal Fabricator
- Sheet Metal Layout Mechanic
- Sheet Metal Journeyman
- HVAC Sheet Metal Installer
- Field Installer
- Press Brake Operator
- Journeyman Sheet Metal Worker

Projected Occupational Demand

Between 2024 and 2029, *Sheet Metal Workers* are projected to increase by **five** net jobs or **20%** (Exhibit 1). Employers in Imperial County will need to hire **three** workers annually to fill new jobs and backfill jobs due to attrition caused by turnover and retirement, for example.

Exhibit 1: Number of Jobs for *Sheet Metal Workers* (2024-2029)²

Occupational Title	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024 - 2029 Net Jobs Change	2024 - 2029 % Net Jobs Change	Annual Job Openings (Demand)
Sheet Metal Workers	25	30	5	20%	3

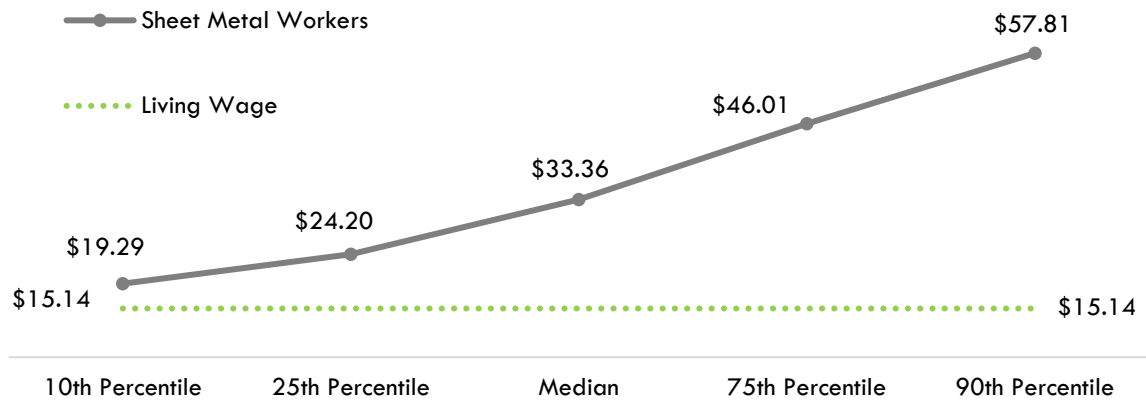
¹ The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system is used by federal statistical agencies to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating or disseminating data. <https://www.bls.gov/soc/>.

² Lightcast 2026.02; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

Earnings

According to traditional³ labor market information (LMI), *Sheet Metal Workers* had entry-level hourly earnings of \$24.20—or \$50,336.00 annual salary⁴; this is more than the living wage for a single adult in Imperial County, which is \$15.14 per hour (Exhibit 2).⁵

Exhibit 2: Hourly Earnings⁶ for *Sheet Metal Workers* in Imperial County⁷



Due to insufficient job postings between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2025 no analysis of employers' advertised wages was completed for *Sheet Metal Workers* in Imperial County (Exhibit 3).⁸

**Exhibit 3: Entry-Level Advertised Salaries in Online Job Postings
for *Sheet Metal Workers* in Imperial County (2023-2025)***

N/A	N/A	N/A
2023	2024	2025

*Hourly wages are rounded to the nearest dollar amount.

³ Traditional LMI is generally historical data captured by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) or the California Employment Development Department (EDD). It does not account for recent technological, economic, or legislative changes that may affect labor market demand and wages.

⁴ Annualized salaries assume a full-time position with 2,080 hours. Multiplying the hourly wage with 2,080 yields the annual salary.

⁵ Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. (2024). The self-sufficiency standard for California 2024. selfsufficiencystandard.org/California.

⁶ 10th and 25th percentiles could be considered entry-level wages, and 75th and 90th percentiles could be considered experienced wages for individuals who may have been in the occupation longer, received more training than others, etc.

⁷ Lightcast 2026.02; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

⁸ Lightcast 2026.02; "Job Posting Analytics." 2023-2025.

Expected Level of Education

According to traditional LMI (data reported to EDD and BLS), *Sheet Metal Workers* have a national educational attainment of a [high school diploma or equivalent](#) (Exhibit 4).⁹

Exhibit 4: National Educational Attainment for *Sheet Metal Workers*¹⁰

Occupational Title	Typical Entry-Level Education
Sheet Metal Workers	High school diploma or equivalent

Due to insufficient job postings between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2025 in Imperial County, no analysis of most requested educational requirement and certifications were completed for *Sheet Metal Workers* (Exhibit 5).¹¹

**Exhibit 5: Top Certifications for *Sheet Metal Workers* in Imperial County
in Online Job Postings (2023-2025)**¹²

1. N/A (insufficient job postings)

Educational Supply

Educational supply for an occupation can be estimated by analyzing the number of awards in related Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) or Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes. There is [one](#) TOP code and [one](#) CIP code related to *Sheet Metal Workers* (Exhibit 6).

Exhibit 6: Related TOP and CIP Codes for *Sheet Metal Workers*¹³

TOP or CIP Code	TOP or CIP Program Title
TOP 0956.40	Sheet Metal and Structural Metal
CIP 48.0506	Sheet Metal Technology/Sheetworking

⁹ Lightcast 2026.02; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

¹⁰ Lightcast 2026.02; QCEW, Non-QCEW, Self-Employed.

¹¹ Lightcast 2026.02; "Job Posting Analytics." 2023-2025.

¹² Lightcast 2026.02; "Job Posting Analytics." 2023-2025.

¹³ This brief uses a conservative estimate of program supply and only calculates awards from the TOP code listed in Exhibit 6.

According to TOP and CIP data, **no** community college or non-community college supplies the region with awards for this occupation (Exhibit 7).

**Exhibit 7: Number of Awards (Certificates and Degrees) Conferred by Postsecondary Institutions
(Program Year 2021-22 Through Program Year 2024-25 Average)**

TOP6 or CIP Code	TOP6 or CIP Program Title	3-Yr Annual Average CC Awards (PY22-23 to PY24-25)	Other Educational Institutions 3- Yr Annual Average Awards (PY21-22 to PY23-24)	Total Average Supply (PY21-22 to PY24-25)
0956.40	Sheet Metal and Structural Metal	0	0	0
48.0506	Sheet Metal Technology/Sheetworking	0	0	0
Total				0

Demand vs. Supply

Comparing labor demand (annual openings) with labor supply¹⁴ suggests that there is a **supply gap** for this occupation in Imperial County, with **three** annual openings and **zero** awards. Comparatively, there are **1,012** annual openings in California and **78** awards, suggesting that there is a **supply gap** across the state¹⁵ (Exhibit 8).

Exhibit 8: Labor Demand (Annual Openings) Compared with Labor Supply (Average Annual Awards)

	Demand (Annual Openings)	Supply (Total Annual Average Supply)	Supply Gap or Oversupply
Imperial	3	0	3
California	1,012	218	794

Please note: This is a basic analysis of supply and demand of labor. The data does not include workers currently in the labor force who could fill these positions or workers who are not captured by publicly available data. This data should be used to discuss the potential gaps or oversupply of workers; however, it should not be the only basis for determining whether or not a program should be developed.

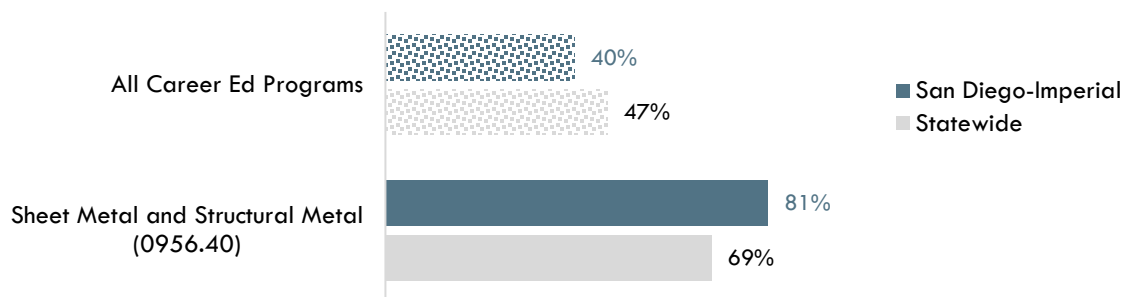
¹⁴ Labor supply can be found from two different sources: LIGHTCAST or the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart. LIGHTCAST uses CIP codes while MIS uses TOP codes. Different coding systems result in differences in the supply numbers.

¹⁵ "Supply and Demand," Centers of Excellence Student Outcomes, coecc.net/our-resources.

Student Outcomes and Regional Comparisons

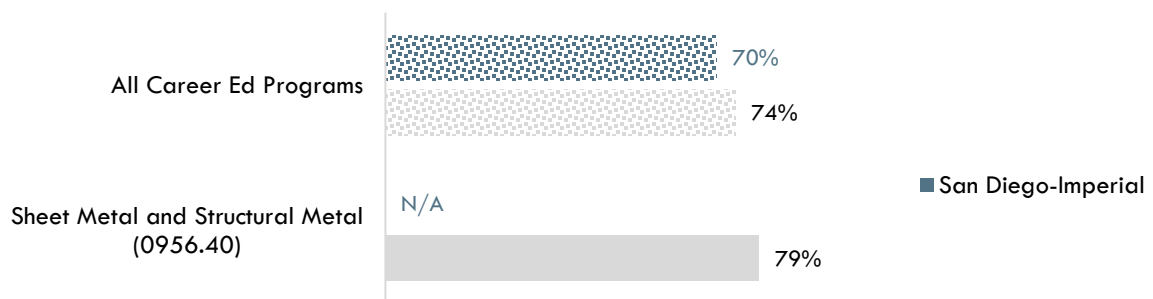
According to the California Community Colleges DataVista, **81%** of students in the San Diego-Imperial region earned a living wage after completing a Sheet Metal and Structural Metal (TOP 0956.40) program, compared to **69%** statewide **47%** of students in Career Education programs in general across the state (Exhibit 9).¹⁶

Exhibit 9: Percentage of Students Who Earned a Living Wage in a Sheet Metal and Structural Metal (TOP 0956.40) program, PY2023-24¹⁷



According to the California Community Colleges DataVista, **79%** of students statewide obtained a job closely related to their field of study after completing a Sheet Metal and Structural Metal (TOP 0956.40) program. In terms of Career Education programs in general, **74%** of students obtained a job closely related to their field of study across the state (Exhibit 10).¹⁸

Exhibit 10: Percentage of Students in a Job Closely Related to Field of Study in a Sheet Metal and Structural Metal (TOP 0956.40) program, PY2022-23¹⁹



"N/A" indicates insufficient data

¹⁶ "DataVista, California Community Colleges, datavista.cccco.edu/.

¹⁷ Most recent year with available data is Program Year 2022-23. Among completers and skills builders who exited, the percentage of students who attained a living wage.

¹⁸ "DataVista, California Community Colleges, datavista.cccco.edu/.

¹⁹ Most recent year with available data is Program Year 2021-22. Percentage of Students in a Job Closely Related to Field of Study: Among students who responded to the CTEOS, the percentage reporting employment in the same or similar field as their program of study.

Employers

Due to insufficient job postings between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2025 in Imperial County, no analysis of employers for *Sheet Metal Workers* were completed (Exhibit 11).

Exhibit 4: Top Employers for *Sheet Metal Workers* in Imperial County²⁰

Top Employers
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Skills

Due to insufficient job postings between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2025 in Imperial County, no analysis of specialized, soft, and software skills were completed (Exhibit 12).

Exhibit 5: Top Skills for *Sheet Metal Workers* in Imperial County²¹

Specialized Skills	Soft Skills	Software Skills
•	•	•

²⁰ Lightcast 2026.02; "Job Posting Analytics." 2023-2025.

²¹ Lightcast 2026.02; "Job Posting Analytics." 2023-2025.

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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.