



Labor Market Analysis: 0948.00 – Automotive Technology 47.0604 – Automobile/Automotive Mechanics Technology/Technician *Automotive Technology*

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, September 2026

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met ☐	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met ☒	Not Endorsed ☐
Program Endorsement Criteria			
Supply Gap:	Yes ☒ (See below)		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 occupation¹ 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 slight supply gap for the one identified middle-skill occupation in the region. While the number of awards conferred is nearly the same as the number of job openings, the talent supply is within the COE's acceptable margin (the number of the number of awards issued is 25% over or under the number of annual openings) and is therefore considered "supply met" rather than a "supply gap." For this reason, real-time labor market data is included in this report as well – to provide a more nuanced view of the regional job market for *automotive service technicians and mechanics*. While entry-level wages are lower than 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 educational attainment.

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

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.

Key Findings

Supply Gap

- 2,140 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2029. This number is greater than the three-year average of 2,052 awards conferred by educational institutions in the region.
 - Although there are nearly the same number of awards conferred as job openings, the data suggests that the **demand has been met for this occupation within the LA/OC region** since the three-year average number of awards (supply) is within the COE's 25% margin of annual job openings (demand).
 - Over the past 12 months, there were **5,373 online job postings for automotive service technicians and mechanics**. The highest number of job postings were for automotive technicians, automotive mechanics, automotive service advisors, automotive technicians/mechanics, and lube technicians.

Living Wage

- \$18.29 is the typical entry-level hourly wage for *automotive service technicians and mechanics*, which is lower than Los Angeles County's self-sufficiency standard hourly (\$24.03/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- A high school diploma or equivalent is the typical entry-level education for *automotive service technicians and mechanics*, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
- 35% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, according to national educational attainment data.

Community college supply

- 15 community colleges issued awards related to automotive technology in the greater LA/OC region.
- 1,451 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2022 and 2024.

Other postsecondary supply

- 5 educational institutions in the LA/OC region have conferred awards in programs related to automotive technology over the past three years.
- 601 awards were conferred on average each year by other postsecondary institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region between 2021 and 2023.

TARGET OCCUPATION

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market and postsecondary supply data related to one middle-skill occupation:

- **Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics (49-3023)** Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. ³

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

³ [Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/automotive-service-technicians-and-mechanics)

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for *automotive service technicians and mechanics*. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to decrease by 1% through 2029. However, there will be more than 2,100 job openings per year through 2029 due to retirements and workers leaving the field. The majority of jobs in 2024 for *automotive service technicians and mechanics* (73%) were located in Los Angeles County.

Exhibit 1: Current employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles and Orange counties⁴

Geography	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	2024-2029 Change	2024-2029 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	18,627	18,442	(185)	(1%)	1,556
Orange	6,770	6,811	42	1%	584
Total	25,396	25,253	(143)	(1%)	2,140

Detailed Occupation Data

Exhibit 2 displays the current employment and projected occupational demand for the target occupation 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 County⁵

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2029 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Aged 55 and older	% Full Time Workers
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	18,627	18,442	(1%)	1,556	24%	93%

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for *automotive service technicians and mechanics* 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 typical entry-level hourly wages for *automotive service technicians and mechanics* are \$18.29, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$24.03 in Los Angeles County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$34.55, which is higher than the self-sufficiency standard (Exhibit 3).

⁴ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

⁵ Ibid.

Exhibit 3: Earnings for occupation in Los Angeles County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$18.29	\$26.81	\$34.55	\$55,800

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Orange County

The typical entry-level hourly wages for *automotive service technicians and mechanics* are \$20.64, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$27.13 in Orange County).

Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$37.29, which is higher than the self-sufficiency standard (Exhibit 4).

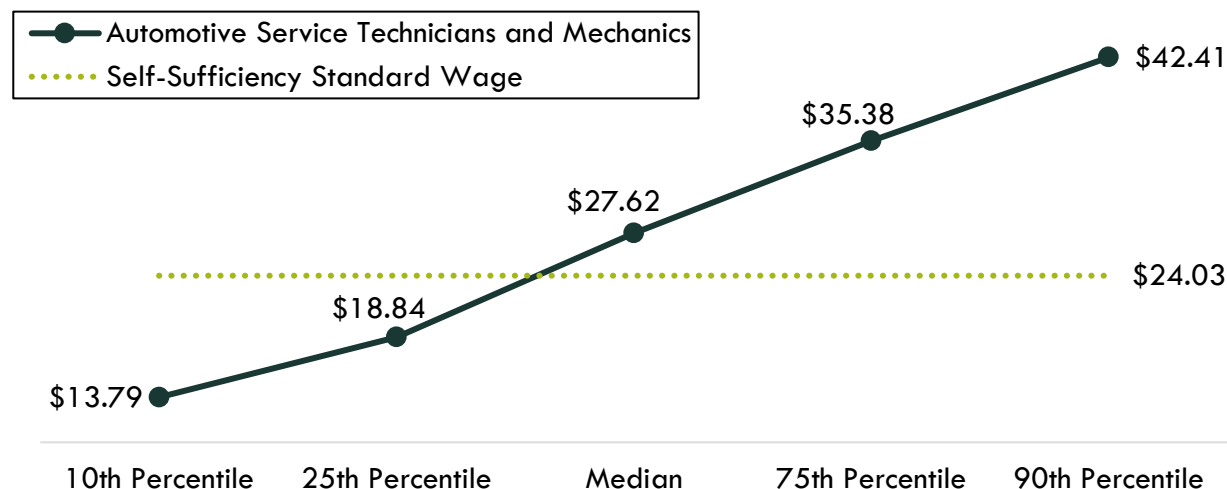
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupation in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$20.64	\$29.78	\$37.29	\$62,000

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Across the greater Los Angeles and Orange County region, the average entry-level hourly earnings for the occupation in this report are \$18.84; this is below the living wage for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$24.03). Exhibit 5 shows the average hourly wage for the occupation in this report, for entry-level to experienced workers.

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



JOB POSTINGS

There were 5,373 online job postings related to *automotive service technicians and mechanics* listed in the past 12 months in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Job postings were analyzed for the most common job titles, skills, and employers associated with the target occupation in this report (Exhibit 6).

Exhibit 6: Most commonly requested job titles, skills and employers in job postings, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Top Job Titles	Top Skills	Top Employers
- Automotive technicians - Automotive mechanics - Automotive service advisors - Automotive technicians/mechanics - Lube technicians - Service technicians - Vehicle specialists	- Automotive services - Changing oil - Good driving record - Vehicle suspension - Brakes - Lifting ability - Vehicle inspection - Vehicle maintenance - Mechanics	- Pep Boys - Valvoline - Walmart - Bridgestone Corporation - Toyota Motor - CarMax - AutoNation - American Tire Depot - Chevrolet

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 33% of the *automotive service technician and mechanic* job postings listed a minimum educational requirement. Exhibit 7 details the number and percentage of job postings by educational level.

Exhibit 7: Education levels requested in job postings for target occupation, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
Bachelor's degree	62	4%
Associate degree	47	3%
High school diploma or vocational training	1,651	94%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a high school diploma or equivalent as the typical entry-level education for *automotive service technicians and mechanics* (Exhibit 8). However, the national-level data indicates 35% 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 occupation in this report:

Exhibit 8: Entry-level education preferred by employers nationally, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Occupation	Education Level
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	High school diploma or equivalent

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLY

Community College Supply

Exhibit 9 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP codes: Automotive Technology (0948.00) and Alternative Fuels and Advanced Transportation Technology (0948.40). The colleges with the most completions in the region are Cypress, LA Trade-Tech, and Pasadena.

Exhibit 9: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2022-2024

TOP Code	Program	College	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Average
0948.00	Automotive Technology	Cerritos	45	75	184	101
		Citrus	35	100	64	66
		Compton	24	58	15	32
		East LA	43	52	23	39
		El Camino	35	43	57	45
		LA Pierce	49	82	77	69
		LA Trade-Tech	108	142	199	150
		Long Beach	66	94	107	89
		Pasadena	166	84	214	155
		Rio Hondo	92	80	101	91
		LA Subtotal	663	810	1,041	838
		Cypress	219	200	258	226
		Fullerton	26	42	21	30
		Golden West	69	111	200	127
		Saddleback	26	35	180	80
		Santa Ana	52	76	159	96
		OC Subtotal	392	464	818	558
		Supply Subtotal/Average			1,055	1,274
0948.40	Alternative Fuels and Advanced Transportation Technology	LA Trade-Tech	6	18	11	12
		Long Beach	9	7	2	6
		Rio Hondo	44	20	33	32
		LA Subtotal	59	45	46	50
		Saddleback	6	4	4	5
		OC Subtotal	6	4	4	5
Supply Subtotal/Average			65	49	50	55
Supply Total/Average			1,120	1,323	1,909	1,451

Exhibit 10 displays the community college awards broken down by award type. In this case, the majority of awards issued by community colleges are certificates (81%).

Exhibit 10: Community college awards by award type, 2022-2024

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
Baccalaureate degrees	10	1%
A.A./A.S. degrees	189	13%
Certificates	1,181	81%
Noncredit awards	71	5%
Total	1,451	100%

Other Postsecondary Supply

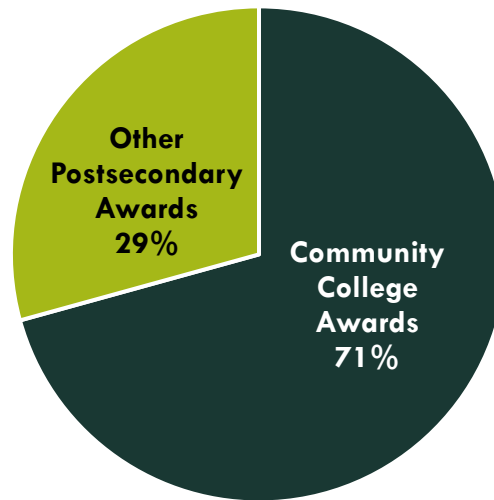
For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for *automotive service technicians and mechanics*. Exhibit 11 shows the number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent data is from 2021 to 2023. Between 2021 and 2023, other postsecondary college institutions in the region conferred an average of 601 sub-baccalaureate awards. Sub-baccalaureate awards include associate degrees, postsecondary awards, and other academic awards that typically take fewer than four years to complete.

Exhibit 11: Other regional postsecondary awards, 2021-2023

CIP Code	Program	Postsecondary Institution	2020-21 Awards	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	3-Year Average
47.0604	Automobile/ Automotive Mechanics Technology/ Technician	Baldwin Park Adult & Community Education	3	4	6	4
		UEI College-Garden Grove	7	64	101	57
		UEI College-Gardena	73	91	82	82
		UEI College-West Covina	78	102	132	104
		Universal Technical Institute-Southern CA	206	391	463	353
Supply Total/Average			367	652	784	601

Exhibit 12 shows the proportion of community college awards conferred in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region compared to the number of other postsecondary awards for the programs in this report. The majority of awards conferred in these programs are awarded by community colleges in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region.

Exhibit 12: Percentage of community college awards compared to other postsecondary institution awards in the Los Angeles/Orange County region



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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)

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