



Labor Market Analysis: 0952.30 – Plumbing, Pipefitting and Steamfitting 46.0503 – Plumbing Technology/Plumber *Plumbing, Pipefitting, and Steamfitting Plumbing and Pipefitting Apprenticeship – Associate of Science (A.S.) degree* 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	☒	No	☐		
Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25th)	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 two identified middle-skill occupations in the region. Furthermore, the majority of annual openings have entry-level wages that exceed the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, and more than one-third of current workers in the field have completed an associate degree or less educational attainment.

Recommendation: Due to all 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

- 1,702 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2030. This number is greater than the three-year average of 60 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

- 95% of annual job openings for these middle-skill plumbing occupations have entry-level wages **above** Los Angeles County's self-sufficiency standard hourly wage (\$24.03/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- A high school diploma or equivalent is the typical entry-level education for both target occupations in this report, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
- 25%-34% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, according to national educational attainment data.
 - However, 92%-94% of workers in the field have completed an associate degree or less education as their highest level of educational attainment.

Community college supply

- 3 community colleges issued awards related to plumbing and pipefitting in the greater LA/OC region.
- 60 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2023 and 2025.

Other postsecondary supply

- No educational institutions in the LA/OC region have conferred awards in programs related to plumbing or pipefitting over the past three years.

TARGET OCCUPATIONS

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

- **Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters (47-2152)**³
- **Septic Tank Servicers and Sewer Pipe Cleaners (47-4071)**⁴

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for these middle-skill plumbing occupations. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase by 3% through 2030. There will be more than 1,700 job openings per year through 2030 due to job growth and replacements. The majority of jobs in 2025 for these middle-skill plumbing occupations (64%) 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 [Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/plumbers-pipefitters-and-steamfitters)

⁴ [Septic Tank Servicers and Sewer Pipe Cleaners \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/septic-tank-servicers-and-sewer-pipe-cleaners)

Exhibit 1: Current employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles and Orange counties⁵

Geography	2025 Jobs	2030 Jobs	2025-2030 Change	2025-2030 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	12,314	12,594	280	2%	1,067
Orange	6,818	7,147	329	5%	635
Total	19,132	19,741	609	3%	1,702

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 County⁶

Occupation	2025 Jobs	2030 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Aged 55 and older	% Full Time Workers
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	11,836	12,065	2%	1,015	24%	100%
Septic Tank Servicers and Sewer Pipe Cleaners	478	529	11%	52	20%	Data unavailable
Total	12,314	12,594	2%	1,067	-	-

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for these middle-skill plumbing 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, 95%, of annual openings for middle-skill plumbing occupations have entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$24.03 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$21.75 and \$24.38. (Exhibit 3).

One occupation has entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage:

- *Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters, \$24.38*

⁵ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

⁶ Ibid.

Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$29.35 and \$45.19, 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*
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	\$24.38	\$31.42	\$45.19	\$65,400
Septic Tank Servicers and Sewer Pipe Cleaners	\$21.75	\$26.01	\$29.35	\$54,100

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Orange County

The majority, 97%, of annual openings for middle-skill plumbing occupations have entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$27.13 in Orange County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$23.03 and \$29.23 (Exhibit 4).

One occupation has entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage:

- *Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters, \$29.23*

Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$30.62 and \$52.10, which are higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

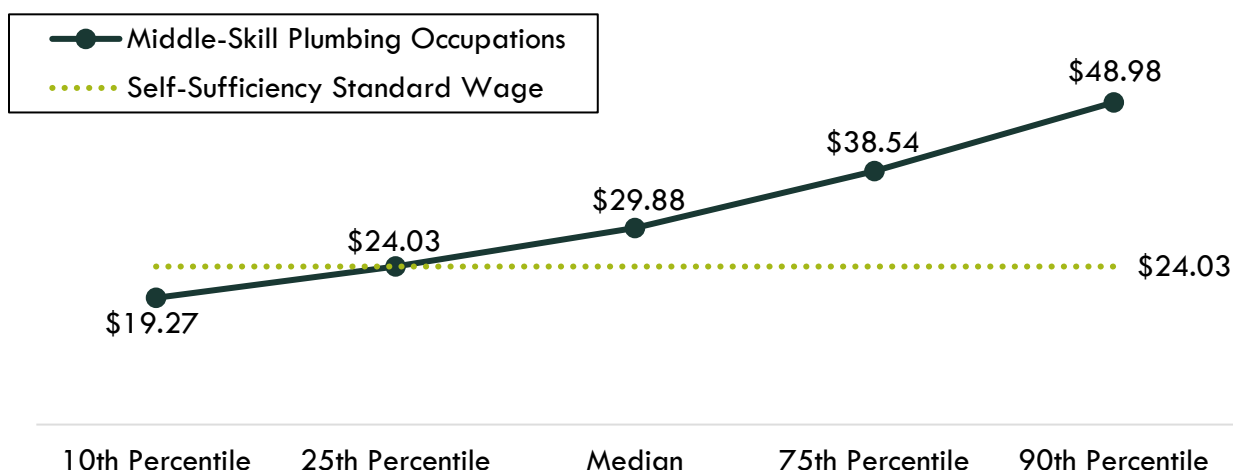
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupations in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	\$29.23	\$36.42	\$52.10	\$75,800
Septic Tank Servicers and Sewer Pipe Cleaners	\$23.03	\$27.24	\$30.62	\$56,700

*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 \$24.03; this is equal to 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 1,655 online job postings related to middle-skill plumbing occupations listed in the past 12 months in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Exhibit 6 displays the number of job postings by occupation. All of the job postings during this time frame (100%) were for *plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters*.

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

Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	1,655
Septic Tank Servicers and Sewer Pipe Cleaners	0

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
- Plumbers - Plumbing technicians - Plumbing installers - Plumbing service technicians - Service plumbers - Journeyman plumbers - Lead plumbers	- Plumbing - Plumbing systems - Construction - Water heaters - Power tool operation - Hand tools - Good driving record	- Aerotek* - Service Champions - All City Plumbing - Superior Electrical Mechanical & Plumbing - NP Mechanical, Inc., Rice Services

*Staffing company

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 18% 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	3	1%
Associate degree	6	2%
High school diploma or vocational training	292	97%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a high school diploma or equivalent as the typical entry-level education for both occupations in this report (Exhibit 9). However, the national-level data indicates between 25% and 34% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment, while 92%-94% have completed an associate degree or less education. 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
Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	High school diploma or equivalent
Septic Tank Servicers and Sewer Pipe Cleaners	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: Plumbing, Pipefitting and Steamfitting (0952.30). The college with the most completions in the region is LA Trade-Tech. In the past three years, there were no other postsecondary institutions in the greater LA/OC region that conferred awards for plumbing or pipefitting.

Exhibit 10: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2023-2025

Summary for regional community college awards (technical and deg. prog.), 2020-2021						
TOP Code	Program	College	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	2024-25 Awards	3-Year Average
0952.30	Plumbing, Pipefitting and Steamfitting	LA Trade-Tech	37	49	59	48
		Rio Hondo	-	-	20	7
		LA Subtotal	37	49	79	55
		Orange Coast	3	6	6	5
		OC Subtotal	3	6	6	5
Supply Total/Average			40	55	85	60

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 (77%).

Exhibit 11: Community college awards by award type, 2023-2025

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
A.A./A.S. degrees	14	23%
Certificates	46	77%
Total	60	100%

APPENDIX: OCCUPATION DESCRIPTIONS

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

- **Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters (47-2152)** Assemble, install, alter, and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air, or other liquids or gases. May install heating and cooling equipment and mechanical control systems. Includes sprinkler fitters.⁷
- **Septic Tank Servicers and Sewer Pipe Cleaners (47-4071)** Clean and repair septic tanks, sewer lines, or drains. May patch walls and partitions of tank, replace damaged drain tile, or repair breaks in underground piping.⁸

⁷ [Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/plumbers-pipefitters-and-steamfitters-47-2152)

⁸ [Septic Tank Servicers and Sewer Pipe Cleaners \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/septic-tank-servicers-and-sewer-pipe-cleaners-47-4071)

Contact information:

Luke Meyer, Director

Los Angeles Center of Excellence

Lmeyer7@mtsac.edu

If for any reason this document is not accessible or if you have specific needs for readability, please contact us and we will do our utmost to accommodate you with a modified version.

DATA SOURCES

POWERED BY



- 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.

© 2026 California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office,

Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research, Economic and Workforce Development Program