

Program Endorsement Brief: 0502.00/Accounting

Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence, October 2018

Summary:

The Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE) prepared this report to provide regional labor market supply and demand data related to accounting. This report is intended to help determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from community college programs that align with relevant occupations.

The following summarizes key findings from this data brief:

- The number of jobs for bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks; and payroll and timekeeping clerks is projected to decrease by 1% over the next five years. However, nearly 9,900 job openings will be available annually due to job replacement need (e.g. retirements).
- Over the past 12 months, there have been 11,773 middle-skill job postings (in Los Angeles/Orange County) for the two accounting occupations studied in this report.
- All 28 colleges in the region have accounting programs.
- Between 2014 and 2017, community colleges in the region conferred an average of 1,380 awards (associate degrees and certificates) in accounting programs.

Occupational Demand—In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs for the two occupations of interest is projected to decrease by 1% over the next five years. However, there will be nearly 9,900 job openings per year through 2022 (Exhibit 1).

Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties¹

Geography	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2017-2022 Change	2017-2022 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	66,070	65,082	988	1%	7,206
Orange	23,965	24,128	163	1%	2,663
Total	90,035	89,210	825	1%	9,869

¹ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

Wages—Entry-level hourly wages for the two occupations studied in the region are between \$12.22 and \$13.30. Entry-level wages are lower than the MIT living hourly wage for one adult in the region (\$13.54 in Los Angeles County, \$15.31 in Orange County). Experienced workers approximately earn between \$33.05 and \$33.23/hour, which is higher than the living wage.

Job Postings—Over the past 12 months, there have been 11,773 **middle-skill** job postings for the two occupations studied in this report. The majority of job postings were for bookkeeper, accounting clerk, and accounts payable specialist. Top specialized skills included: accounting, data entry, and payroll processing.

Educational Attainment—The BLS lists a high school diploma or vocational training as the typical entry-level education for payroll and timekeeping clerks and some college, no degree for bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks. The national-level educational attainment data indicates between 49% and 51% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. Of job postings including a minimum educational requirement in Los Angeles/Orange County, 74% of job postings request a high school diploma or vocational training.

Community College Supply—Appendix A shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP code: Accounting (0502.00). The colleges with the most completions in the region are: East LA, Santa Ana, and Irvine Valley College. Between January and September 2018, there were six other community college requests for data related to a similar program.

Appendix A: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2014-2017

TOP Code	Program	College	2014-15 Awards	2015-16 Awards	2016-2017 Awards	3-Year Award Average
0502.00	Accounting	Cerritos	25	31	25	27
		Citrus	16	4	16	12
		Coastline	69	87	63	73
		Compton	1	8	4	4
		Cypress	7	14	4	8
		East LA	313	268	346	309
		El Camino	28	16	15	20
		Fullerton	11	18	14	14
		Glendale	63	47	55	55
		Golden West	25	26	17	23
		Irvine	151	130	169	150
		LA City	13	9	15	12
		LA Harbor	6	4	7	6
		LA Mission	5	3	9	6
		LA Pierce	12	11	11	11
		LA Southwest	1	N/A	2	2
		LA Trade	20	27	25	24
		LA Valley	39	44	79	54
		Long Beach	45	34	27	35
		Mt San Antonio	106	65	103	91
		Orange Coast	20	30	22	24
		Pasadena	31	27	20	26
		Rio Hondo	9	6	11	9
		Saddleback	27	28	42	32
Santa Ana	563	164	95	274		
Santa Monica	52	83	52	62		
Santiago Canyon	3	3	6	4		
West LA	13	8	17	13		
Total/Average			1,674	1,195	1,271	1,381

Appendix B: Occupational demand and wage data by county

Exhibit 2. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	5-yr Change	5-yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks (43-3031)	60,049	59,123	926	2%	6,614	\$13.11	\$21.08	\$32.29
Payroll and Timekeeping Clerks (43-3051)	6,022	5,959	63	1%	592	\$11.48	\$22.10	\$32.83
Total	66,070	65,082	988	1%	7,206			

Exhibit 3. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	5-yr Change	5-yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks (43-3031)	21,250	21,393	143	1%	2,390	\$13.86	\$21.95	\$31.64
Payroll and Timekeeping Clerks (43-3051)	2,715	2,735	20	1%	273	\$16.22	\$25.45	\$33.33
Total	23,965	24,128	163	1%	2,663			

Exhibit 4. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	5-yr Change	5-yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks (43-3031)	81,299	80,516	783	1%	9,004	\$13.30	\$21.31	\$32.23
Payroll and Timekeeping Clerks (43-3051)	8,737	8,694	43	0%	865	\$12.22	\$23.15	\$33.05
Total	90,035	89,210	825	1%	9,869			

Appendix C: Sources

- O*NET Online
- Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)
- Economic Modeling Specialists, International (EMSI)
- Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- Employment Development Department, Unemployment Insurance Dataset
- Living Insight Center for Community Economic Development
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- MIT Living Wage

For more information, please contact:

Lori Sanchez, Director
Center of Excellence, Los Angeles/Orange County Region
lsanchez144@mtsac.edu

October 2018

