

Program Endorsement Brief: 1250.00/Emergency Medical Services

Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence, April 2019

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 emergency medical services. 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 emergency medical technicians and paramedics, and ambulance drivers and attendants is projected to increase by 7% over the next five years. More than 500 job openings will be available annually due to new job growth and replacement need (e.g. retirements).
- In the past 12 months, there have been 606 online job postings related to emergency medical services in the region.
- Currently, five colleges have emergency medical services programs.
- Last year, there were no other community college requests for data related to a similar program.
- Between 2015 and 2018, community colleges in the region conferred an average of 133 awards (associate degrees and certificates) in related training programs.

Occupational Demand — In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs for emergency medical technicians and paramedics, and ambulance drivers and attendants is projected to increase by 7%. There will be more than 500 job openings per year through 2023 (Exhibit 1).

Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties¹

Geography	2018 Jobs	2023 Jobs	2018-2023 Change	2018-2023 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	5,016	5,165	149	3%	364
Orange	2,004	2,327	323	16%	204
Total	7,020	7,493	473	7%	569

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 — As shown in Appendix B, the entry-level wages for emergency medical technicians and paramedics, and ambulance drivers and attendants are lower than the MIT Living hourly wage for one adult in the region (\$14.36 in Los Angeles County, \$15.85 in Orange County). Regional wages are below the statewide averages.

Job Postings — In the past 12 months, there have been 606 online job postings related to emergency medical services. The majority of job postings are for emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Top specialized skills are: patient care, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and advanced cardiac life support (ACLS). The top employers, by number of job postings, in the region include: Liberty Ambulance, Ambulnz and Atlas Lift Tech.

Educational Attainment — The BLS lists a postsecondary certificate as the typical entry-level education for emergency medical technicians and paramedics, and a high school diploma as the entry-level education for ambulance drivers and attendants. The national-level educational attainment data indicates between 38% and 68% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. Of the job postings listing a minimum education level, the majority (92%) requested high school or vocational training.

Community College Supply — Appendix A shows the annual and average three-year number of awards conferred by community colleges in Emergency Medical Services (1 250.00). Currently five colleges have EMS programs, with Mt. San Antonio and East LA conferring the most awards. Last year, there were no other community college requests for data related to a similar program.

Appendix A: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2015-18

TOP Code	Program	College	2015-16 Awards	2016-17 Awards	2017-18 Awards	3-Year Award Average
1250.00	Emergency Medical Services	Citrus	-	36	59	48
		East LA	89	40	58	62
		Long Beach	-	-	1	1
		Mt. San Antonio	-	-	74	74
		Saddleback	14	15	13	14
Total			103	91	205	133

Appendix B: Occupational demand and wage data by county

Exhibit 3. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2018 Jobs	2023 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics (29-2041)	4,605	4,750	145	3%	305	\$10.86	\$14.02	\$24.69
Ambulance Drivers and Attendants, Except Emergency Medical Technicians (53-3011)	411	415	4	1%	59	\$10.58	\$11.82	\$15.81
Total	5,016	5,165	149	3%	364			

Exhibit 4. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2018 Jobs	2023 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics (29-2041)	1,869	2,169	300	16%	179	\$10.57	\$12.06	\$22.11
Ambulance Drivers and Attendants, Except Emergency Medical Technicians (53-3011)	135	159	24	18%	25	\$10.50	\$11.69	\$15.57
Total	2,004	2,327	323	16%	204			

Exhibit 5. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2018 Jobs	2023 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics (29-2041)	6,474	6,919	445	7%	484	\$10.74	\$13.38	\$23.94
Ambulance Drivers and Attendants, Except Emergency Medical Technicians (53-3011)	546	573	27	5%	85	\$10.56	\$11.79	\$15.75
Total	7,020	7,493	473	7%	569			

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
- MIT Living Wage

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 April 2019

