

Automotive Upholsterers

Inland Empire/Desert Region (Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area)

Summary

- Employment for upholsterers is expected to experience little to no growth through 2022. Despite this lack of growth, **nearly 380 job openings** will be available over the five-year timeframe in the Inland Empire/Desert Region.
- The entry-level hourly wage of \$13.30 for upholsterers is **above the MIT Living Wage estimate of \$12.30 per hour** for a single adult living in the Inland Empire/Desert Region.
- There appears to be an opportunity for program growth based on the average annual number of program completers for the selected program (**3 average annual awards**), and the annual openings for upholsterers in the region (**76 annual job openings**).

Introduction

The definition of upholsterers is listed below along with its corresponding reported job titles, education and training requirements, as well as the community college educational attainment of current workers within this occupation. Upholsterers work in many industries; the most significant employers of these jobs are in the personal and household goods maintenance and repair and furniture manufacturing industries in the Inland Empire/Desert region. The automotive body, paint, and interior repair industry employ only 7% of the total upholsterer jobs, see Exhibit 5 for more detail. The job counts, job projections, and wages are for upholsterers employment in all industries; demand for automotive upholsterers is displayed mostly from employer job ads in this report.

Upholsterers (51-6093)

Make, repair, or replace upholstery for household furniture or transportation vehicles.

Sample job titles: Box Spring Upholsterer, Furniture Upholsterer, Inside Upholsterer, Sofa Back Upholsterer, Stapler, Trimmer, Upholstered Goods Crafter, Upholsterer, Upholstery Cutter, Upholstery Trimmer



Entry-Level Educational Requirement: High school diploma or equivalent

Training Requirement: One to twelve months on-the-job training

Percentage of incumbent workers with a Community College Award or Some Postsecondary Coursework: 22%

Job Opportunities

In 2017, there more than 700 upholsterer jobs in the Inland Empire/Desert region. Across the region, employment related to this occupation is expected to experience little to no growth through 2022. Despite this flat growth, employers will still need to hire 379 workers over the next five years to fill new jobs and to backfill positions that workers are leaving—including retirements. Exhibit 1 displays the projected growth for upholsterers in the region.

Exhibit 1: Five-year projections for upholsterers in the Inland Empire/Desert Region

Region	2017 Jobs	5-Yr % Change (New Jobs)	5-Yr Openings (New + Replacement Jobs)	Annual Openings (New + Replacement Jobs)	% of workers age 55+
Inland Empire/Desert Region	728	0%	379	76	28%

Source: EMSI 2018.1

Over the last 12 months (March 2017 to February 2018), there were a total of 3 job advertisements for upholsterers in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. In the full-year 2017, there were 2 job ads; 7 job ads in 2016; 7 job ads in 2015; and 15 job ads in 2014. All of the advertisements for upholsterers were directed at furniture upholstery, not for automotive interiors.

Earnings

The entry-level wage for upholsterers, \$13.30 per hour, is above the MIT Living Wage estimate of \$12.30 per hour, or \$25,584 annually for a single adult living in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. The median wage is sufficient for an adult living in a household with one other working adult and one child (\$14.50 per hour, per adult or \$30,160 annually for each adult). See Exhibit 2 for wage information.

Exhibit 2: Earnings for upholsterers in the Inland Empire/Desert Region

Occupation	Entry to Experienced Hourly Earnings Range*	Median Wage*	Average Annual Earnings
Upholsterers	\$13.30 to \$18.47	\$14.92	\$33,400

Source: EMSI 2018.1

*Entry Hourly is 25th percentile wage, the median is 50th percentile wage, experienced is 75th percentile wage.

Skills and Education

No information could be obtained regarding the in-demand skills and minimum education requirements from job ads for upholsterers in the Inland Empire/Desert Region due to the lack of advertisements for automotive upholsterers. To compensate for this lack of information, a nationwide search for upholsterers, along with the keyword “automotive,” was conducted to obtain relevant skills and minimum advertised education from job ads. While these skills might not be entirely representative of what is required of upholsterers in our region, occupational skills tend to be relatively consistent regardless of geography. Exhibit 3 displays the top specialized, soft, and software and programming skills that employers are seeking when looking for workers to fill upholsterers positions.

Exhibit 3: In-demand skills from employer job ads for automotive upholsterers across the nation, Mar 2017 – Feb 2018

Occupation	Specialized skills	Soft skills	Software and Programming skills
Upholsterers (N=25)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewing • Hand Tools • Repair • Power Tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Skills • Physical Demand • Communication Skills • Organization Skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft Office

Source: Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Exhibit 4 displays the entry-level education level education typically required to enter this occupation according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This chart also displays educational attainment for incumbent workers with “some college, no degree” and an “associate degree” according to the U.S. Census (2015-16) and the minimum advertised education requirement requested by employers in online job ads across the nation.

Exhibit 4: Educational attainment and online job ads with minimum advertised education requirements for upholsterers across the nation, Mar 2017 – Feb 2018

Occupations	Typical Entry-Level Education Requirement	Educational Attainment (Percentage of incumbent workers with a Community College Award or Some Postsecondary Coursework)	Number of Job Postings (n=)	Minimum Advertised Education Requirement from Job Ads		
				High school diploma or vocational training	Associate degree	Bachelor's degree or higher
Upholsterers	HS diploma or equivalent	22%	20	100%	-	-

Source: EMSI 2018.1, Current Population Survey, Burning Glass – Labor Insights

Industry

Exhibit 5 displays a list of industries that employ the most upholsterers in the Inland Empire/Desert Region. The exhibit includes the number of upholsterer jobs in each industry and the percentage of upholsterers that are employed by each industry. Only 7% of the total upholsterer jobs work on automotive interiors.

Exhibit 5: Top industries employing upholsterers in the Inland Empire/Desert Region, 2017

Industry (NAICS)	Jobs in Industry (2017)	% of Occupation in Industry (2017)
Other Personal and Household Goods Repair and Maintenance (811490)	122	17%
Upholstered Household Furniture Manufacturing (337121)	120	17%
Appliance Repair and Maintenance (811412)	77	11%
Nonupholstered Wood Household Furniture Manufacturing (337122)	64	9%
Automotive Body, Paint, and Interior Repair and Maintenance (811121)	53	7%

Source: EMSI 2018.1

Student Completions

Exhibit 6 shows the annual average regional community college awards (associate degrees and certificates) conferred during the three academic years between 2014 and 2017, with the relevant TOP code as well as the program title used at each college, sourced from the Chancellor’s Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI). Please note, an award is not equivalent to a single person in search of a job opening since a student may earn more than one award, such as an associate degree in addition to a certificate. Community College student outcome information is from the CTE LaunchBoard based on the selected TOP code and region.

Exhibit 6: Annual average community college student completions for the upholstery repair – automotive programs in the Inland Empire/Desert Region

0949.10 – Upholstery Repair – Automotive	Annual Community College Headcount (2016-17)	Community College Annual Average Awards (2014-17)
Riverside – Automotive Trim & Upholstery	41	
Associate Degree		1
Certificate 18 to < 30 semester units		2
Total Community College Headcount (2016-17)	41	
Total annual average community college awards		3

Source: IPEDS



0949.10 – Upholstery Repair – Automotive program Strong Workforce outcomes in the Inland Empire/Desert Region in the academic year 2015-16:

- Number of course enrollments: 45 (California median: 76)*
- Number of students who transferred to a 4-year institution: N/A (CA: N/A)
- Employed in the second fiscal quarter after exit: N/A (CA: 53%)
- Median earnings in the second fiscal quarter after exit: \$6,764 (CA:\$10,702)
- Employed in the fourth fiscal quarter after exit: N/A (CA: 58%)
- Median annual earnings: \$28,279 (CA: \$38,860)
- The percentage in a job closely related to the field of study: N/A% (CA: N/A%)
- Median change in earnings: 418% (CA: 211%)
- The proportion of students who attained a living wage: N/A% (CA: 75%)

*academic year 2016-17



Sources

Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)
Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)
CTE LaunchBoard
California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI, version 2.0)
O*Net Online
MIT Living Wage Calculator
Center of Excellence TOP to SOC Crosswalk

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