

## Program Endorsement Brief: 0502.10/Tax Studies

Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence, April 2019

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### 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 middle-skill tax occupations. 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 tax-related occupations is projected to increase by 4% over the next five years. More than 900 job openings will be available annually due to new job growth and replacement need.
- Over the past 12 months, there were 1,471 online job postings related to middle-skill tax occupations in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.
- Two other related program recommendation requests were received in 2018 from regional community colleges.
- Four colleges in the region have existing tax programs.
- Between 2015 and 2018, community colleges in the region conferred an average of 39 awards annually (associate degrees and certificates) in related training programs.

**Occupational Demand** — In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs for middle-skill tax occupations is projected to increase by 4%. There will be more than 900 job openings per year through 2022 (Exhibit 1).

**Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties<sup>1</sup>**

Geography	2017 Jobs	2022 Jobs	2017-2022 Change	2017-2022 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	6,098	6,292	194	3%	640
Orange	2,511	2,636	125	5%	277
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,609</b>	<b>8,927</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>917</b>

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<sup>1</sup> 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 and median wages for middle-skill tax occupations in the region are between \$13.10 and \$23.27. Entry-level wages for tax preparers are lower than the MIT Living hourly wage for one adult in the region (\$14.36 in Los Angeles County and \$15.85 in Orange County). Experienced workers earn between \$42.23 and \$58.15, which is higher than the living wage. Regional wages are above the average statewide wage for this occupation.

**Job Postings** — There were 1,471 online job postings related to middle-skill tax occupations listed in the past 12 months. The majority of job postings are for tax professional, tax preparer, tax associate, tax specialist, and administrative assistant. Top specialized skills are: tax returns, tax preparation, customer retention, tax planning, accounting, and audit planning. More than half of the job postings (53%) requested a bilingual candidate. The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region are: H&R Block, Jackson Hewitt Tax Service, and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

**Educational Attainment** — The BLS lists a high school diploma as the typical entry-level education for tax preparers, and a Bachelor’s degree as the typical entry-level education for tax examiners and collectors, and revenue agents. The national-level educational attainment data indicates approximately 35% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. In Los Angeles/Orange County, 98% of job postings request high school or vocational training.

**Community College Supply** — Appendix A shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in Tax Studies (0502.10). In the region, LA Pierce has the most awards conferred. Last year, there were two other related program recommendation requests from regional community colleges.

**Appendix A: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2015-2018**

TOP Code	Program	College	2015-16 Awards	2016-17 Awards	2017-2018 Awards	3-Year Award Average
0502.10	Tax Studies	Glendale	3	-	-	3
		Irvine	13	16	9	13
		LA Pierce	13	32	16	20
		Saddleback	6	5	3	5
<b>Subtotal/Average</b>			<b>35</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>39</b>

**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
Tax Preparers (13-2082)	4,815	4,991	176	4%	547	\$13.03	\$22.80	\$45.92
Tax Examiners and Collectors, and Revenue Agents (13-2081)	1,283	1,301	18	1%	93	\$22.17	\$38.05	\$57.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,098</b>	<b>6,292</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>640</b>			

**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
Tax Preparers (13-2082)	2,120	2,238	118	6%	249	\$13.70	\$23.49	\$38.75
Tax Examiners and Collectors, and Revenue Agents (13-2081)	391	398	7	2%	29	\$26.06	\$40.40	\$58.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,511</b>	<b>2,636</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>277</b>			

**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
Tax Preparers (13-2082)	6,935	7,228	293	4%	795	\$13.10	\$22.99	\$42.23
Tax Examiners and Collectors, and Revenue Agents (13-2081)	1,674	1,699	25	1%	121	\$23.27	\$38.63	\$58.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,609</b>	<b>8,927</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>917</b>			

## 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
- Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI 2.0)

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