

Program Endorsement Brief: 0957.30/Surveying

Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence, January 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 for middle-skill jobs related to surveying. 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:

- Surveying and mapping technician jobs are increasing by 4% over the next five years, and nearly 150 job openings will be available annually due to new job growth and replacement need.
- Over the past 12 months, there were 158 online middle-skill job postings in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.
- Four colleges in the region have surveying and geographic information systems programs.
- Between 2014 and 2017, community colleges in the region conferred an average of 54 awards annually (associate degrees and certificates) in related training programs.

Occupational Demand—In Los Angeles/Orange County, the number of jobs for surveying and mapping technicians is projected to increase by 4%. There will be nearly 150 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	795	835	40	5%	95
Orange	431	443	12	3%	49
Total	1,225	1,278	53	4%	144

Wages—Entry-level and median hourly wages for surveying and mapping technicians in the region are \$20.59 and \$30.14, respectively. Entry-level wages are higher 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 earn \$46.01, which is higher than the living wage. Regional wages are above the average statewide wage for this occupation.

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.

Job Postings—There were 158 online middle-skill job postings related to surveying listed in the past 12 months. The majority of job postings were for survey technicians, GIS technicians, and field technicians. Top specialized skills are knowledge of: geographic information system (GIS), ArcGIS, and global positioning system (GPS).

Educational Attainment—The BLS lists a high school diploma or equivalent as the typical entry-level education for surveying and mapping technicians. The national-level educational attainment data indicates 59% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. In Los Angeles/Orange County, 69% 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 Surveying (0957.30) and Geographic Information Systems (2206.10). The colleges with the most completions in the region are Santiago Canyon (Surveying) and Rio Hondo (Geographic Information Systems). Between January and December 2018, there were two other related program recommendation requests from regional community colleges.

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
0957.30	Surveying	East LA	-	2	-	1
		Santiago Canyon	24	15	11	17
Subtotal/Average			24	17	11	17
2206.10	Geographic Information Systems	Cypress	1	7	1	3
		Rio Hondo	25	47	28	33
Subtotal/Average			26	54	29	36
Total/Average			50	71	40	54

Appendix B: Occupational demand and wage data by county

Exhibit 2. 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
Surveying and Mapping Technicians (17-3031)	795	835	40	5%	95	\$17.06	\$28.91	\$44.83

Exhibit 3. 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
Surveying and Mapping Technicians (17-3031)	431	443	12	3%	49	\$22.12	\$33.04	\$46.28

Exhibit 4. 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
Surveying and Mapping Technicians (17-3031)	1,225	1,278	53	4%	144	\$20.59	\$30.14	\$46.01

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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