

Key Messages

For Students



- California taxpayers receive \$4.50 for every \$1 invested in students who graduate from a California community college.
- Students earning a degree or certificate from a California community college nearly double their earnings within three years.
- Attending or graduating from a California Community College nearly doubles your chance of finding a job compared to those who failed to complete high school.
- Occupations that typically require workers to have an associate degree for entry have an average annual wage of almost \$53,000, compared to an average annual wage of \$36,100 for workers in high school-level occupations, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Employment in associate and postsecondary nondegree-level occupations is projected to grow 11% in the 10-year period ending in 2026, faster than the 7% average projected for all occupations, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- 70 percent of all future jobs will require more education than a high school diploma¹
- Middle-skills jobs are plentiful and those with middle-skills are projected to be in high demand. By 2025, California is predicted to be facing a middle-skills job gap of up to 1.5 million workers.²
- Similarly, middle-skill jobs account for 52 percent of the US labor market, but only 43 percent of workers are trained to the middle-skill level³
- Middle-skill jobs provide abundant options for those looking for work because these jobs, which require education beyond high school but not a four-year degree, make up the largest part of the labor market in the United States⁴
- In California, a plurality of jobs (47%) require skills training beyond high school, but not a four-year degree. But just 39% of California's workers have had access to the skills training necessary to fill these in-demand careers⁵
- Nationally, employment in many "career education"-related fields like residential construction, package delivery and warehousing now exceed pre-pandemic levels. Manufacturers have steadily added back jobs after slashing payrolls last spring, though employment remains down about 5% from February 2020, according to Labor Department data. As reported in the Wall Street Journal, job openings in many blue-collar occupations broke above pre-virus levels last summer and remain significantly elevated according to Indeed.⁶



For Employers

- According to the Inland Empire Economic Partnership:
 - “A region’s economic competitiveness, growth and vitality are intrinsically tied to educational attainment and the quality of its workforce.”⁷
 - “The Inland Empire is one of the most populous regions in California, with 4.6 million people, yet its students are less likely to earn college degrees when compared to comparable regions. The region’s low college attendance and completion rates constitutes a fundamental weakness in our economic infrastructure and is an indicator of regional economic vulnerability.”
 - “Given the challenges facing our region, we should focus on improving the entire educational pipeline so that students are college- and career-ready, as well as improve our regional post-secondary completion rates. Our region should also focus on providing opportunities for our non-college educated residents through improved workforce training.”
- Enrolling 197,000 students in 2019, the Inland Empire community colleges are the largest provider of workforce education and skills training in the region providing the well-trained employees that regional employers need to prosper.
- Together, the Inland Empire’s 12 community colleges offer 100s of career education programs in everything from cybersecurity to welding, providing the kind of practical skills students need to succeed and employers need to thrive.⁸
- All of Inland Empire’s priority industry sectors will have “in-demand” occupations, meaning these occupations are projected to have more than 100 job openings at year for the next five years. For a list of these occupations, visit: <https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.150/wxw.b35.myftpupload.com/wp->

¹ <https://www.chronicle.com/newsletter/the-edge/2020-01-22#:~:text=For%202027%2C%20the%20center%20will,%20economy%2C%E2%80%9D%20Smith%20said>

² <https://www.ppic.org/publication/californias-need-for-skilled-workers/>

³ Ibid.

⁴ <https://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/US-Skills-Mismatch-Fact-Sheet-2020.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.nationalskillscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CA-Skills-Mismatch-Fact-Sheet-2020.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/blue-collar-jobs-boom-as-covid-19-boosts-housing-e-commerce-demand-11613903402>

⁷ <http://ieep.com/public-policy-platform/>

⁸ <https://inlandempiregia.org/postsecondary-success/>