

Memorandum

To: Frank Kobayashi, Associate Vice President, American River College (ARC)

From: Aaron Wilcher, Director, Center of Excellence (COE), North-Far North region

Date: November 1, 2018

Re: Program endorsement request for mill and cabinetmakers

Background

American River College requested labor market information related mill and cabinet work for the program endorsement process. The COE provides the present memo, referencing a construction report that was completed in January 2018.¹ Even though the data is now 10 months old, the importance of the overall findings remains relevant: California faces a major housing shortage; a significant cause for lagging residential construction supply is a workforce shortage, and, by extension, a lack of pipeline development for skilled workers.

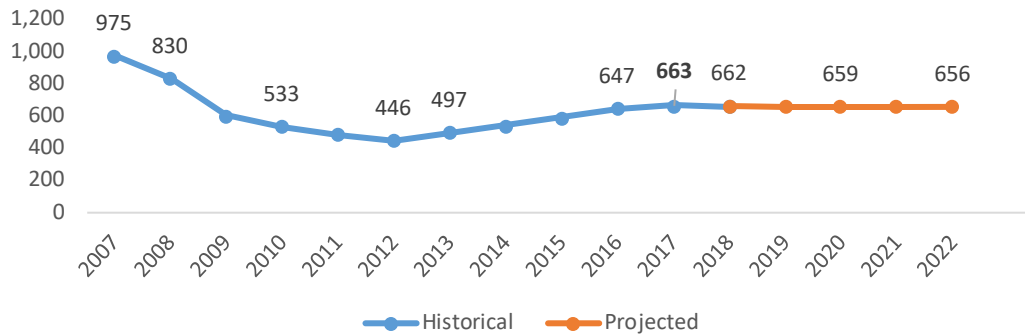
The memo provides updated numbers specific to Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters, both for occupational demand and educational awards.

Findings

- Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters are listed in the COE's January, 2018 report among those occupations with a severe gap in specialty contractor industries, a major group in the Sacramento region. Specialty contractors accounted for 51,000 jobs in the 6-county Sacramento region in 2016 (27, 51).
- Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters were included in the occupation and education category with carpenters and laborers (the crosswalk gap analysis). The category showed an extreme workforce shortage projection during the period 2016-2021; the projection compared projected annual openings (retirements, separations, and new jobs), with three year average awards in carpentry-related program areas. The projected annual shortfall for just the one category was nearly 2,000 jobs for the 6-county Sacramento region between 2017 and 2021 (40-48).
- Current occupational data shows a decline of Cabinet Makers and Bench Carpenters during the recession. Jobs in the category have not recovered, but growth has been strong. Projections are weak for new jobs, but Emsi projects more than 60 annual openings over the next five years from 2017-2022.

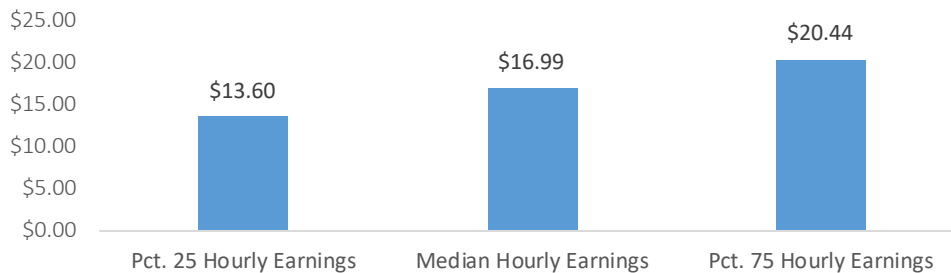
¹ Center of Excellence. *Construction: Cluster and Workforce Needs Assessment, Sacramento Region*, January 2018.

SOC 51-7011 Cabinetmaker and Bench Carpenters, 6-County Sacramento region jobs, 2007-2022 (historical, projected)



- Wages are low for the occupation, just \$17 per hour at the median level. The occupation could be considered an entry point to a construction pathway that could include multiple avenues toward higher levels of training and earnings. The living wage for a one adult, one-child household in Sacramento County is \$25.90.²

Hourly wages for SOC 51-7011 Cabinetmaker and Bench Carpenters, 6-county Sacramento region



² MIT Living Wage Calculator. <http://livingwage.mit.edu/>

- There are no awards registered in the Sacramento region in the COE Supply Tool for TOP code 0952.50, Mill and Cabinet Work. Instead, the research looked at 0952.00 Construction Crafts Technology, and 0952.10 Carpentry. In the academic years for which there was consistent data, there was a two-year average of just 85 awards.

2-Year Average awards	(14-15, 15-16) Academic years
095200 - Construction Crafts Technology	
American River College	60
Cosumnes River College	1
095210 - Carpentry	
American River College	24
Total	85

Recommendations

- Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters could represent an important entry-point to a field that faces an extreme shortage of construction workers. American River College should connect the program to a pathway to other positions.
- Updated data from Emsi shows that wages for the related occupation are low.
- The available data indicates there may be no specific program that prepares cabinetmakers in the region. There are few program awards for the related carpentry and construction program categories.
- The COE recommends moving forward with the program.

Please contact Aaron Wilcher, COE director, for further information at wilchea@losrios.edu or 916-563-3233.