

Tech Sector

Table 7: Lane County Tech Sector Employment Forecast

2017	2027	# Growth	% Growth	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings
4,086	5,025	939	23%	1,901	2,464	5,304

Source: Oregon Employment Department

The Tech Sector in Lane County includes roughly 450 firms in industries like software publishing, data processing services, and electronic manufacturing. Together, these firms employed 4,086 workers in 2017 and contributed almost \$304 million in covered payroll.

Trends show that, like most sectors, the Tech Sector in Lane County lost jobs during the Great Recession, dropping from an annual average of 5,658 jobs in 2007 to 4,002 in 2012 for a loss of 1,655, or 29 percent. After 2012, the sector grew, gaining roughly 520 jobs by 2014 from a variety of manufacturing, software, and computer service firms. In 2017, the sector lost about 180 jobs. This was due largely to layoffs at Symantec; however, these job losses were countered by new and expanding tech firms. The number of new firms in the tech sector grew by 22 between 2016 and 2017.

Within the Tech Sector, software publishing is the largest industry and has a strong

employment concentration, 2.5 times the U.S. concentration and about 1.5 times compared to Oregon.

At the industry level, Tech Sector wages are high. In 2017, the average annual wage was \$74,279 compared to \$42,644 for all industries in Lane County.

At the occupational level, the most common occupations in the industry show a combination of highly paid technical occupations and generally lower paid office personnel. Table 8 shows the most common occupations in the Tech Sector along with average annual wages.

The Oregon Employment Department forecasts the tech sector will grow by 23 percent in Lane County between 2017 and 2027, compared to 11 percent for all industries (Table 7). Growth is helped by the published addition of several new and expanding firms. This will equate to an additional 939 tech sector jobs. In addition, there are expected to be 4,365 openings created through replacement needs equaling roughly 5,304 total openings or an average of 530 openings per year.

Photo courtesy of SheerID



The Technology Association of Oregon (TAO) of the Southern Willamette Valley continues to be the lead convener of the Lane County Tech Sector. When asked about the impact of TAO establishing a local chapter in the Greater Eugene Area, SheerID Chief Executive Officer Jake Weatherly had this to say, "Since the rise of the Technology Association's

Table 8: Lane County Employment in the Tech Sector – Most Common Occupations

Occupational Title	2017 Employment	Average Annual Wages
Software Developers, Applications	443	\$83,291
Computer Occupations, All Other	192	\$66,113
General and Operations Managers	142	\$96,290
Architects, Except Landscape and Naval	138	\$67,994
Web Developers	130	\$79,263
Computer and Information Systems Managers	122	\$90,395
Social Science Research Assistants	115	\$48,734
Computer Programmers	112	\$69,229
Software Developers, Systems Software	108	\$89,778
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	95	\$37,968
Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers	90	\$63,029*
Computer User Support Specialists	86	\$51,154
Multimedia Artists and Animators	86	\$78,654
Civil Engineers	81	\$80,042
Sales Representatives, Services, All Other	73	\$64,342

Source: Oregon Employment Department

*Statewide wage

Southern Willamette Valley chapter, their partnerships with local and State workforce contributors, and meteoric growth of membership representing both innovative technology companies and aligned service providers, Lane County has become a world-class community that companies value as they start and grow. We have consistently attracted and retained tech talent, and the pool of candidates continues to grow exponentially due to the increased quality of education and training available in the area."

In the last year, TAO, along with economic development partners, has helped to recruit

nearly two dozen tech companies to Eugene and Springfield. Tech companies are attracted to the area by the world-class internet infrastructure called EUGNet, a collaborative startup ecosystem, and outdoor amenities.

EUGNet was a determining factor in Eugene-Springfield being named a US Ignite Smart Gigabit Community. Locally this has translated into community partners coming together with a focus on developing smart gigabit applications to address local community needs in areas such as transportation, public safety, and education.

LOCAL RESPONSES TO TECH WORKFORCE NEEDS:

Investments: From 2016–2018, LWP has invested \$15,914 in scholarships related to high tech careers and an additional \$127,216 in On-The-Job Training contracts with local high tech employers. Through the Regional Innovation Training Funds, LWP invested \$50,000 to SentinalOne for Cyber Security training for the 12 employees hired who were previously displaced from Symantec.

Building a Pipeline: In July 2017, LWP was awarded a \$783,796 contract through the Oregon Employment Department to pilot a tech apprenticeship in Lane County over the next three years. The program, called Apprenti, launched in November 2017. LWP plans to place 40 individuals in a tech apprenticeship by September 2020.