

TECH SECTOR

Table 7: Lane County Tech Sector Employment Forecast

2014	2024	# Growth	% Growth	Replacements	Total Openings
4,233	5,418	1,185	28.0%	793	1,978

Source: Oregon Employment Department

The Tech Sector in Lane County includes roughly 400 firms in industries like software publishing, data processing services, and electronic manufacturing. Together, these firms employed 4,418 workers in 2015 and contributed almost \$329 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 2015, the sector lost about 100 jobs. This was due to layoffs at Symantec, however these job losses were countered by new and expanding tech firms.

Within the Tech Sector, software publishing is the largest industry and has a strong employment concentration, 5.2 times the U.S. concentration and even greater compared to Oregon.

At the industry level, Tech Sector wages are high. In 2015, the average annual wage was

\$74,368 compared to \$40,824 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 28 percent in Lane County between 2014 and 2024, compared to 11 percent for all industries (Table 7). Growth is helped by the published addition of a new Broadcom computer chip plant and several new and expanding firms. This will equate to an additional 1,185 tech sector jobs. In addition, there is expected to be 793 openings created through replacement needs equaling roughly 1,980 total openings or an average of 198 openings per year.

In early 2015, the Technology Association of Oregon (TAO) established a Southern Willamette Valley office. Since then, TAO has taken on the role of convener for the Lane County Tech Collaborative. Since its inception in February 2015, the Tech Collaborative has been tackling issues identified by the local tech industry. Six task teams were formed, two of which deal directly with workforce training and education — creating business-driven curriculum in local colleges and improving the quality of K-12 education.

According to TAO, the availability of qualified talent in our region continues to be the biggest limiting factor to even greater growth in the tech sector. In September of 2016, there were more than 200 active job openings identified in a survey of local tech companies. New

LOCAL RESPONSES TO TECH WORKFORCE NEEDS:

Investments: From 2014–2016, LWP has invested \$11,850 in scholarships related to high tech careers and an additional \$63,000 in on-the-job training contracts with local high tech employers. Through the Regional Innovation Training Funds, LWP invested \$50,000 to Hop Skip Mobile for the development of data science curriculum.

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

Occupational Title	2014 Employment	Average Annual Wages
Computer and Information Systems Managers	86	\$97,070
Software Developers, Applications	353	\$85,598
General and Operations Managers	102	\$83,653
Computer Systems Analysts	90	\$76,191
Architects, Except Landscape and Naval	108	\$63,526
Network and Computer Systems Administrator	103	\$62,839
Computer Occupations, All Other	90	\$62,182
Computer Network Support Specialists	83	\$59,086
Computer Programmers	93	\$58,195
Business Operations Specialists, All Other	85	\$56,224
Sales Representatives, Services, All Other	108	\$48,621
Social Science Research Assistants	95	\$44,390
Computer User Support Specialists	277	\$43,747
Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	129	\$42,891

Source: Oregon Employment Department

programs like Talent Match and Experience Oregon Tech, both of which Lane Workforce Partnership was a founding partner in, are increasingly important to bring together job seekers with the many local opportunities.

Connected to these programs there are several emerging efforts to strengthen the talent pipeline. Connected Lane County, a regional education and workforce development consortium, is working with TAO to expand access to career technical education (CTE) courses in software engineering and programming in secondary education. It is envisioned that in-classroom learning will be complemented with applied learning opportunities through tech industry partnerships.

In the summer of 2016, the Oregon Talent Council awarded a grant to the University of Oregon for Project OnRamp. The University of Oregon now joins globally recognized programs such as Stanford,

MIT, and UC Berkeley all of whom have recently started to offer Internet of Things (IoT) and data science curriculum coupled together. “It’s fantastic to see this in-demand talent being developed in our own backyard. The greater Eugene tech community has responded very positively by creating new internships and targeted scholarships, reflecting industry’s commitment to increasing diversity in tech,” said Matt Sayre, Director of the Technology Association of Oregon.



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