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What is Lightcast Data?

Lightcast data is a hybrid dataset derived from official government sources such as the US Census Bureau, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Bureau of Labor Statistics. Leveraging the unique strengths of each source, our data modeling team creates an authoritative dataset that captures more than 99% of all workers in the United States. This core offering is then enriched with data from online social profiles, resumés, and job postings to give you a complete view of the workforce.

Lightcast data is frequently cited in major publications such as *The Atlantic*, *Forbes*, *Harvard Business Review*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today*.



Forbes

Harvard Business Review Ehe New York Eimes

WSJ





Report Parameters

1 Occupation

Software Developers

1 State

California

Class of Worker

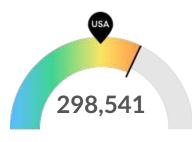
QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed

The information in this report pertains to the chosen occupation and geographical area.



Executive Summary

Average Job Posting Demand Over a Deep Supply of Regional Jobs



Jobs (2024)

California is a hotspot for this kind of job. The national average for an area this size is 202,163* employees, while there are 298,541 here.



Compensation

Earnings are high in California. The national median salary for .NET Developers is \$132,716, compared to \$170,269 here.



Job Posting Demand

Job posting activity is about average in California. The national average for an area this size is 5,589* job postings/mo, while there are 5,839 here.

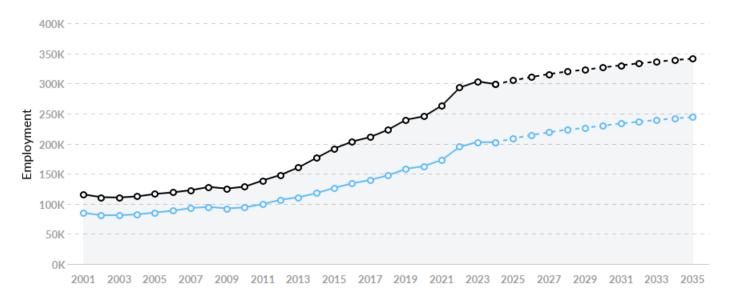
^{*}National average values are derived by taking the national value for .NET Developers and scaling it down to account for the difference in overall workforce size between the nation and California. In other words, the values represent the national average adjusted for region size.



Jobs

Regional Employment Is Higher Than the National Average

An average area of this size typically has 202,163* jobs, while there are 298,541 here. This higher than average supply of jobs may make it easier for workers in this field to find employment in your area.

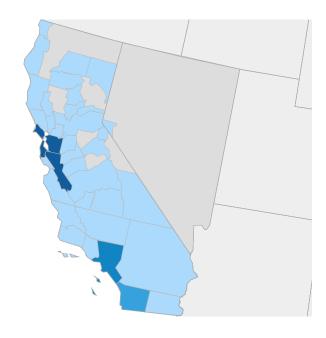


	Region	2024 Jobs	2025 Jobs	Change	% Change
•	California	298,541	305,138	6,597	2.2%
	National Average	202,163	208,696	6,533	3.2%

^{*}National average values are derived by taking the national value for .NET Developers and scaling it down to account for the difference in overall workforce size between the nation and California. In other words, the values represent the national average adjusted for region size.



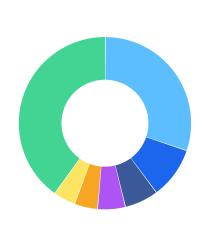
Regional Breakdown



MSA	2024 Jobs
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA	89,956
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, CA	77,510
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA	56,967
San Diego-Chula Vista-Carlsbad, CA	21,711
Sacramento-Roseville-Folsom, CA	7,904



Most Jobs are Found in the Computer Systems Design and Related Services **Industry Sector**



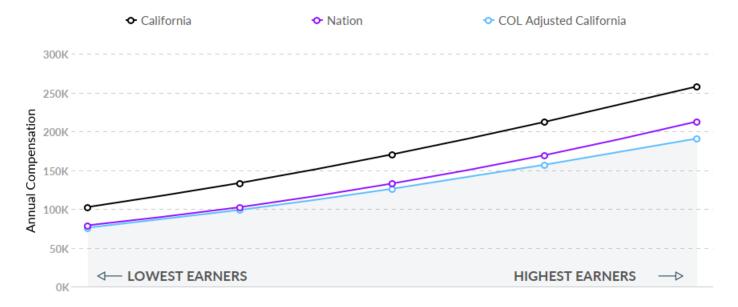
Industry	% of Occupation in Industry (2024)
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	30.1%
Software Publishers	9.7%
Web Search Portals, Libraries, Archives, and Other Information Services	6.3%
Computing Infrastructure Providers, Data Processing, Web Hosting, and Related Services	5.2%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	4.4%
Scientific Research and Development Services	4.1%
Other	40.2%



Compensation

Regional Compensation Is 28% Higher Than National Compensation

For .NET Developers, the 2024 median wage in California is \$170,269, while the national median wage is \$132,716.





Job Posting Activity



110,949 Unique Job Postings

The number of unique postings for this job from Jan 2024 to Jul 2025.



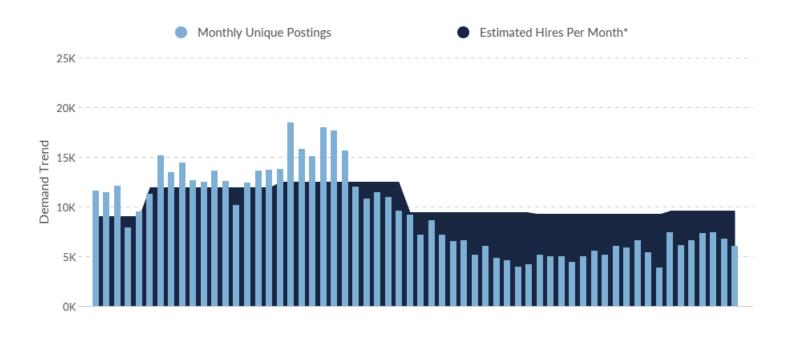
10,210 Employers Competing

All employers in the region who posted for this job from Jan 2024 to Jul 2025.



21 Day Median Duration

Posting duration is 5 days shorter than what's typical in the region.



Occupation	Avg Monthly Postings (Jan 2024 - Jul 2025)	Avg Monthly Hires (Jan 2024 - Jul 2025)
Software Developers	5,839	9,408

^{*}A hire is reported by the Quarterly Workforce Indicators when an individual's Social Security Number appears on a company's payroll and was not there the quarter before. Lightcast hires are calculated using a combination of Lightcast jobs data, information on separation rates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and industry-based hires data from the Census Bureau.

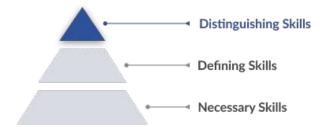


Top Companies	Unique Postings	Top Job Titles	Unique Postings
Apple	3,382	Software Engineers	12,933
Amazon	3,168	Staff Software Engineers	2,699
Google	1,894	Solutions Architects	2,428
Accenture	1,276	Full Stack Engineers	2,331
Meta	1,242	Full Stack Software Engineers	2,273
Nvidia	960	Principal Software Engineers	2,187
Insight Global	874	Software Development Engineers	2,168
Tiktok	737	DevOps Engineers	1,885
Northrop Grumman	702	Embedded Software Engineers	1,801
Walmart	698	Software Developers	1,693

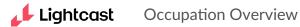


Top Distinguishing Skills by Demand

An occupation's Distinguishing Skills are the advanced skills that are called for occasionally. An employee with these skills is likely more specialized and able to differentiate themselves from others in the same role.

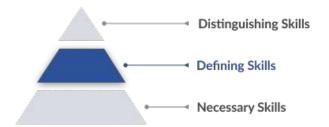


Skill	Salary Boosting	Job Postings Requesting	Projected Growth	Growth Relative to Market
Artificial Intelligence	8	14,400	+12.4%	Growing
Machine Learning	•	13,073	+19.9%	Rapidly Growing
Algorithms	•	11,660	+23.3%	Rapidly Growing
TypeScript	8	9,261	+13.2%	Growing
Go (Programming Language)	•	8,579	+17.2%	Growing
Data Structures	8	7,555	+15.5%	Growing
Operating Systems	8	7,192	+22.6%	Rapidly Growing
Technical Leadership	8	7,078	+9.6%	Growing
Software Solutions	8	6,961	0.0%	
Object-Oriented Programming (OOP)	8	6,897	+17.1%	Growing



Top Defining Skills by Demand

An occupation's Defining Skills represent the day-to-day tasks and responsibilities of the job. An employee needs these skills to qualify for and perform successfully in this occupation.

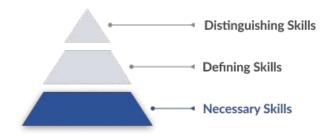


Skill	Salary Boosting	Job Postings Requesting	Projected Growth	Growth Relative to Market
Computer Science	•	48,846	+26.8%	Rapidly Growing
Software Engineering	•	43,851	+23.1%	Rapidly Growing
Software Development	8	35,048	+23.2%	Rapidly Growing
Python (Programming Language)	8	34,369	+24.5%	Rapidly Growing
Scalability	•	28,887	+25.2%	Rapidly Growing
Application Programming Interface (API)	8	24,882	+9.5%	Growing
Amazon Web Services	•	22,731	+24.0%	Rapidly Growing
Java (Programming Language)	8	22,695	+17.4%	Growing
C++ (Programming Language)	•	21,300	+10.0%	Growing
Agile Methodology	8	21,154	+19.8%	Rapidly Growing



Top Necessary Skills by Demand

An occupation's Necessary Skills are the specialized skills required for that job and relevant across other similar jobs. An employee needs these skills as building blocks to perform the more complex Defining Skills.

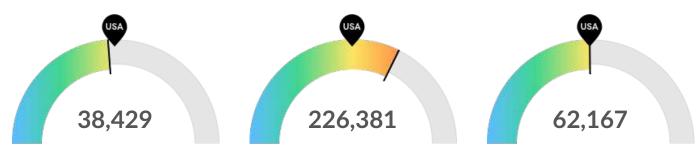


Skill	Salary Boosting	Job Postings Requesting	Projected Growth	Growth Relative to Market
Workflow Management	8	13,921	+18.0%	Growing
Project Management	8	10,572	+19.8%	Rapidly Growing



Demographics

Retirement Risk Is About Average, While Overall Diversity Is High



Retiring Soon

Retirement risk is about average in California. The national average for an area this size is 41,168* employees 55 or older, while there are 38,429 here.

Racial Diversity

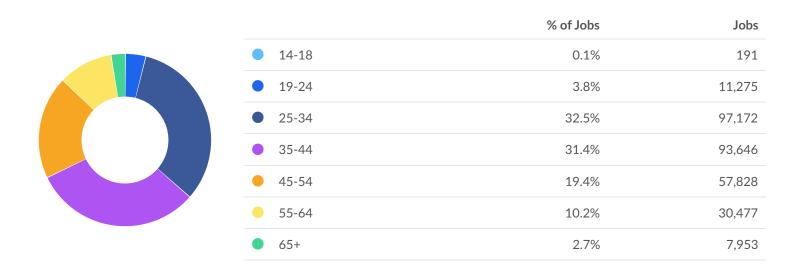
Racial diversity is high in California. The national average for an area this size is 151,048* racially diverse employees, while there are 226,381 here.

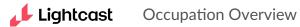
Gender Diversity

Gender diversity is about average in California. The national average for an area this size is 62,654* female employees, while there are 62,167 here.

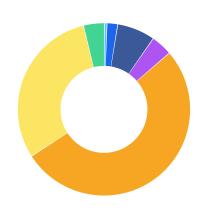
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Occupation Age Breakdown





National Educational Attainment



	% of Jobs
Less than high school diploma	0.5%
High school diploma or equivalent	2.0%
Some college, no degree	7.1%
Associate's degree	4.0%
Bachelor's degree	52.2%
Master's degree	30.3%
Doctoral or professional degree	3.9%



Appendix A

Software Developers (SOC 15-1252):

Research, design, and develop computer and network software or specialized utility programs. Analyze user needs and develop software solutions, applying principles and techniques of computer science, engineering, and mathematical analysis. Update software or enhance existing software capabilities. May work with computer hardware engineers to integrate hardware and software systems, and develop specifications and performance requirements. May maintain databases within an application area, working individually or coordinating database development as part of a team.

Sample of Reported Job Titles:

Software Engineer Developer Application Integration Engineer **Application Developer** Systems Engineer Software Development Engineer Software Developer Software Architect **Network Engineer** Infrastructure Engineer

Related O*NET Occupation:

Software Developers (15-1252.00)



Appendix B - Data Sources and Calculations

Location Quotient

Location quotient (LQ) is a way of quantifying how concentrated a particular industry, cluster, occupation, or demographic group is in a region as compared to the nation. It can reveal what makes a particular region unique in comparison to the national average.

Occupation Data

Emsi occupation employment data are based on final Emsi industry data and final Emsi staffing patterns. Wage estimates are based on Occupational Employment Statistics (QCEW and Non-QCEW Employees classes of worker) and the American Community Survey (Self-Employed and Extended Proprietors). Occupational wage estimates are also affected by county-level Emsi earnings by industry.

Staffing Patterns Data

The staffing pattern data in this report are compiled from several sources using a specialized process. For QCEW and Non-QCEW Employees classes of worker, sources include Occupational Employment Statistics, the National Industry-Occupation Employment Matrix, and the American Community Survey. For the Self-Employed and Extended Proprietors classes of worker, the primary source is the American Community Survey, with a small amount of information from Occupational Employment Statistics.

Cost of Living Data

Lightcast's cost of living data is based on the Cost of Living Index published by the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER).

Lightcast Job Postings

Job postings are collected from various sources and processed/enriched to provide information such as standardized company name, occupation, skills, and geography.

Institution Data

The institution data in this report is taken directly from the national IPEDS database published by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.