

Santa Cruz County High Demand Job Opportunities

Santa Cruz County continues to see jobs returning to the local economy and prospects for lower unemployment are improving. Over the next five years, Santa Cruz County is projected to add more than 500 jobs. The occupations within the industry sectors identified by the Workforce Development Board of Santa Cruz County that have the best job prospects are shown below.

soc	Agriculture	2024 Jobs	Annual Openings	5-Year Projected Job Growth	5-Year Projected Growth %	Avg. Hourly Earnings
11-9013	Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers	1,584	156	-34	-2.0%	\$51.73
39-2021	Animal Caretakers	334	64	13	4.0%	\$20.34
45-2091	Agricultural Equipment Operators	309	47	-1	-0.5%	\$23.61
45-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers	267	35	-5	-2.0%	\$29.47
soc	Business & Financial Operations	2024 Jobs	Annual Openings	5-Year Projected Job Growth	5-Year Projected Growth %	Avg. Hourly Earnings
43-9061	Office Clerks, General	1,750	163	-136	-8.0%	\$24.38
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	1,485	108	-39	-2.5%	\$67.07
43-6014	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	1,137	105	-63	-5.5%	\$26.59
43-3031	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	1,015	91	-77	-8.0%	\$29.52
43-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	897	66	-64	-7.5%	\$37.74
13-2011	Accountants and Auditors	788	54	-22	-3.0%	\$46.78
13-1199	Business Operations Specialists, All Other	784	60	-19	-2.5%	\$43.75
13-1111	Management Analysts	571	43	-8	-1.5%	\$54.09
13-1082	Project Management Specialists	515	33	-11	-2.0%	\$51.35
13-1161	Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	498	40	-8	-1.5%	\$38.56
13-1071	Human Resources Specialists	426	33	-7	-1.5%	\$43.03
11-3031	Financial Managers	424	31	8	2.0%	\$85.48
43-6011	Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	317	27	-17	-5.5%	\$34.90
43-3021	Billing and Posting Clerks	268	24	-11	-4.0%	\$27.16
11-1011	Chief Executives	263	15	-7	-2.5%	\$123.03
13-1151	Training and Development Specialists	258	22	0	0.0%	\$39.28
43-9199	Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	255	20	-22	-9.0%	\$21.25
soc	Education & Public Administration	2024 Jobs	Annual Openings	5-Year Projected Job Growth	5-Year Projected Growth %	Avg. Hourly Earnings
37-2011	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	1,642	206	-65	-4.0%	\$21.11
37-3011	Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	1,354	162	-36	-2.5%	\$23.61
11-9199	Managers, All Other	1,130	76	-29	-2.5%	\$81.39
25-9045	Teaching Assistants	1,039	94	-89	-9.0%	\$23.03
25-2021	Elementary School Teachers	1,018	42	-95	-9.5%	\$45.96
37-2012	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	864	109	-38	-4.5%	\$21.88
25-2031	Secondary School Teachers	671	25	-62	-9.5%	\$49.18
33-9032	Security Guards	586	66	-27	-4.5%	\$23.99
33-3051	Police and Sheriffs Patrol Officers	467	30	-16	-3.5%	\$56.78
25-3031	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term	429	42	-30	-7.0%	\$27.16
25-3021	Self-Enrichment Teachers	427	46	-14	-3.5%	\$34.33
25-2022	Middle School Teachers	404	17	-38	-9.5%	\$44.66
11-9141	Property, Real Estate, and Community Association Managers	365	24	-14	-4.0%	\$36.83
25-2011	Preschool Teachers	357	35	-13	-4.0%	\$23.56
soc	Engineering & Environmental Science	2024 Jobs	Annual Openings	5-Year Projected Job Growth	5-Year Projected Growth %	Avg. Hourly Earnings
17-2051	Civil Engineers	185	10	-4	-2.0%	\$56.30
17-2141	Mechanical Engineers	143	8	0	-0.5%	\$65.05
17-2112	Industrial Engineers	136	8	0	0.0%	\$59.28
soc	Healthcare	2024 Jobs	Annual Openings	5-Year Projected Job Growth	5-Year Projected Growth %	Avg. Hourly Earnings
29-1141	Registered Nurses	1,738	84	-17	-1.0%	\$71.88
31-9092	Medical Assistants	828	114	27	3.0%	\$26.06
43-6013	Medical Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	727	68	-12	-1.5%	\$24.71
31-1131	Nursing Assistants	573	75	-12	-2.0%	\$23.17
21-1018	Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors	477	43	16	3.5%	\$33.08
29-2061	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	463	33	-13	-3.0%	\$38.03
21-1093	Social and Human Service Assistants	450	46	2	0.5%	\$26.15
11-9111	Medical and Health Services Managers	369	35	33	8.5%	\$72.98
31-9091	Dental Assistants	368	47	-4	-1.0%	\$25.87
21-1021	Child, Family, and School Social Workers	316	24	-3	-1.0%	\$38.61
29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	307	27	-5	-1.5%	\$25.91
11-9151	Social and Community Service Managers	217	17	2	1.0%	\$42.98
31-9096	Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers	201	39	9	4.5%	\$21.59
29-1292	Dental Hygienists	182	11	-1	-0.5%	\$63.89
31-9011	Massage Therapists	167	22	3	1.5%	\$33.22
29-2099	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other	162	12	1	0.5%	\$31.30

soc	Information/Technology and Science	2024 Jobs	Annual Openings	5-Year Projected Job Growth	5-Year Projected Growth %	Avg. Hourly Earnings
15-1252	Software Developers	824	47	17	2.0%	\$72.36
11-3021	Computer and Information Systems Managers	341	24	6	2.0%	\$98.65
15-1299	Computer Occupations, All Other	296	16	-6	-2.0%	\$59.13
15-1232	Computer User Support Specialists	292	15	-13	-4.5%	\$37.93
15-1211	Computer Systems Analysts	237	13	-3	-1.5%	\$57.74
soc	Manufacturing, Construction & Transportation	2024 Jobs	Annual Openings	5-Year Projected Job Growth	5-Year Projected Growth %	Avg. Hourly Earnings
53-7065	Stockers and Order Fillers	1,510	229	-31	-2.0%	\$20.96
53-7062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	1,410	168	-47	-3.5%	\$21.20
53-3032	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,006	95	-27	-2.5%	\$28.85
49-9071	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	887	73	-24	-3.0%	\$28.89
51-2092	Team Assemblers	875	90	-41	-5.0%	\$24.23
47-2061	Construction Laborers	815	66	-8	-1.0%	\$27.26
53-3033	Light Truck Drivers	814	82	-4	-0.5%	\$25.14
47-2031	Carpenters	756	51	-25	-3.5%	\$35.72
43-5071	Shipping, Receiving, and Inventory Clerks	468	32	-44	-9.5%	\$22.88
47-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	467	32	-11	-2.5%	\$47.26
11-9021	Construction Managers	390	28	-4	-1.0%	\$59.13
49-3023	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	383	27	-16	-4.0%	\$32.84
53-3031	Driver/Sales Workers	371	38	-1	0.0%	\$22.36
53-3052	Bus Drivers, Transit and Intercity	362	40	-10	-2.5%	\$35.34
47-2111	Electricians	339	30	0	0.0%	\$39.86
53-1047	First-Line Supervisors of Transportation and Material Moving Workers	339	30	-10	-3.0%	\$31.92
51-9111	Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	335	34	-8	-2.5%	\$20.53
53-7051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	325	29	-10	-3.0%	\$22.31
51-9061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	321	30	-21	-6.5%	\$26.54
51-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	315	24	-18	-6.0%	\$37.98
47-2152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	305	23	-8	-2.5%	\$39.38
soc	Retail & Hospitality	2024 Jobs	Annual Openings	5-Year Projected Job Growth	5-Year Projected Growth %	Avg. Hourly Earnings
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	2,219	285	-110	-5.0%	\$20.48
35-3031	Waiters and Waitresses	1,738	325	-79	-4.5%	\$23.27
35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	1,122	177	29	2.5%	\$21.92
43-4051	Customer Service Representatives	973	104	-77	-8.0%	\$24.33
35-1012	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	898	123	-16	-2.0%	\$24.66
41-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	856	62	-74	-9.0%	\$27.02
41-4012	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing	814	60	-39	-5.0%	\$40.91
35-2021	Food Preparation Workers	772	119	-51	-7.0%	\$19.62
43-4171	Receptionists and Information Clerks	603	71	-27	-4.5%	\$21.54
35-3011	Bartenders	596	99	-2	-0.5%	\$20.77
41-3091	Sales Representatives of Services	501	42	-18	-3.5%	\$38.61
11-2022	Sales Managers	452	30	-14	-3.0%	\$64.13
11-9051	Food Service Managers	372	37	-13	-3.5%	\$36.30
41-2021	Counter and Rental Clerks	309	30	-11	-3.5%	\$22.31
41-9022	Real Estate Sales Agents	291	20	-14	-5.0%	\$33.94
11-2021	Marketing Managers	233	17	-5	-2.0%	\$80.34
51-3011	Bakers	227	34	-6	-2.5%	\$20.82
soc	Services	2024 Jobs	Annual Openings	5-Year Projected Job Growth	5-Year Projected Growth %	Avg. Hourly Earnings
39-9031	Exercise Trainers and Group Fitness Instructors	388	73	5	1.0%	\$30.29
39-9032	Recreation Workers	338	66	-6	-2.0%	\$20.72
39-5012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	302	37	-5	-2.0%	\$26.06
27-1024	Graphic Designers	182	11	-9	-5.0%	\$36.20
soc	Other	2024 Jobs	Annual Openings	5-Year Projected Job Growth	5-Year Projected Growth %	Avg. Hourly Earnings
27-2022	Coaches and Scouts	281	33	-3	-1.0%	\$31.20
27-3031	Public Relations Specialists	178	13	-4	-2.0%	\$38.32
27-3043	Writers and Authors	172	15	-5	-3.0%	\$50.38
27-2042	Musicians and Singers	167	18	-6	-4.0%	\$34.76
27-4021	Photographers	151	12	-3	-2.5%	\$35.00

These occupations are in industries with projected growth from 2025-2030 (or a decline of less than 10%), that pay a wage of at least \$19.60/hour, or \$40,770 annually (current 300% poverty guideline for Santa Cruz County), have an education/experience level at or below the Bachelor's Degree level, and currently have at least 50 employed in Santa Cruz County. (6.17.2025)