Massachusetts’ Forgotten Middle

Middle-skill jobs, which require education beyond high school but not a four-year degree, make up the largest part of America’s and Massachusetts’ labor market. Key industries in Massachusetts are unable to find enough sufficiently trained workers to fill these jobs.

Demand for Middle-Skill Jobs is Strong

Forty-six percent of all jobs in 2015 were middle-skill.

Demand for Middle-Skill Jobs Will Remain Strong

Between 2014-2024, 41 percent of job openings will be middle-skill.

A Middle-Skill Gap

Middle-skill jobs account for 46 percent of Massachusetts’ labor market, but only 35 percent of the state’s workers are trained to the middle-skill level.

Jobs by Skill Level, Massachusetts, 2015

- High-Skill: 15%
- Middle-Skill: 39%
- Low-Skill: 46%


Job Openings by Skill Level, Massachusetts, 2014-2024

- High-Skill: 20%
- Middle-Skill: 39%
- Low-Skill: 41%

Source: NSC analysis of long-term occupational projections from state labor/employment agency.

Jobs and Workers by Skill Level, Massachusetts, 2015