New York’s 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 New York’s labor market. Key industries in New York are unable to find enough sufficiently trained workers to fill these jobs.

Jobs by Skill Level, New York, 2015

- High-Skill: 16%
- Middle-Skill: 34%
- Low-Skill: 50%


Demand for Middle-Skill Jobs is Strong

Fifty percent of all jobs in 2015 were middle-skill.

Job Openings by Skill Level, New York, 2014-2024

- High-Skill: 21%
- Middle-Skill: 34%
- Low-Skill: 45%

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

Demand for Middle-Skill Jobs Will Remain Strong

Between 2014-2024, 45 percent of job openings will be middle-skill.

A Middle-Skill Gap

Middle-skill jobs account for 50 percent of New York’s labor market, but only 38 percent of the state’s workers are trained to the middle-skill level.

Jobs and Workers by Skill Level, New York, 2015