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

Demand for Middle-Skill Jobs is Strong
Fifty-five percent of all jobs in 2015 were middle-skill.

Demand for Middle-Skill Jobs Will Remain Strong
Between 2014-2024, 49 percent of job openings will be middle-skill.

A Middle-Skill Gap
Middle-skill jobs account for 55 percent of South Dakota’s labor market, but only 49 percent of the state’s workers are trained to the middle-skill level.

Jobs by Skill Level, South Dakota, 2015


Job Openings by Skill Level, South Dakota, 2014-2024

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

Jobs and Workers by Skill Level, South Dakota, 2015