



Connecticut

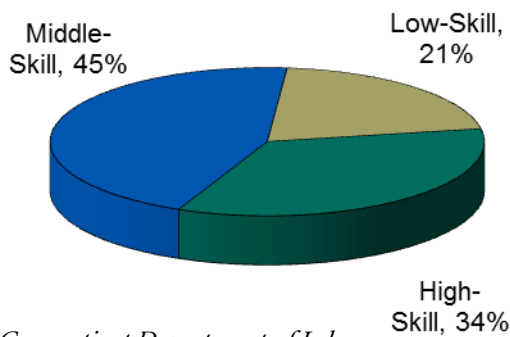
Growing Connecticut's Economy by Investing in the Forgotten Middle

Middle-skill jobs, which require more than high-school, but less than a four-year degree, make up the largest part of America's and Connecticut's labor market. All too often, key industries in Connecticut are unable to find enough sufficiently trained workers to fill these jobs. As a result, job creation and economic growth are stifled. We can't afford that—particularly now—in Connecticut.

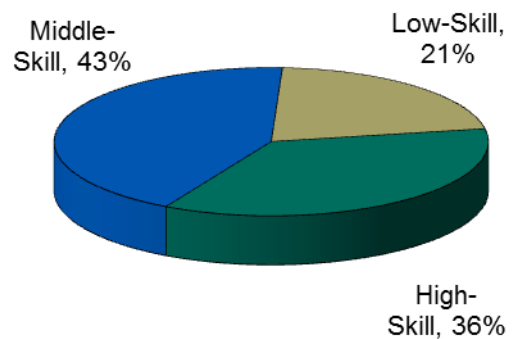
Years ago, our nation established a number of workforce development programs to meet this demand by preparing Connecticut's workers for middle-skill jobs. But since then, our federal education and training policies have largely forgotten about these jobs, and investments in the programs that prepare middle-skill workers have plummeted. As a result, in Connecticut too many workers struggle to find decent jobs and too many employers struggle to find skilled employees. Our federal policymakers—including Connecticut's congressional delegation—must address the investment shortfall in the forgotten middle of the labor market. Connecticut simply can't afford the lost jobs and productivity that complacency brings.

Demand for Middle-Skill Jobs is Strong, Will Remain Strong in Connecticut

Connecticut Jobs by Skill Level, 2008



Connecticut Jobs by Skill Level, 2018



Source: Connecticut Department of Labor

Middle-Skill Jobs are the Backbone of Connecticut's Economy

Middle-skill jobs are key to our nation's health, its infrastructure and its economic growth. Many of these jobs cannot be outsourced: from the care of our sick and elderly, to the repair of our computerized cars, to the running and maintenance of our factories' advanced machinery, to the construction of our nation's bridges and buildings. Middle-skill jobs can provide good wages and career paths for America's and Connecticut's workers.

Examples of High-Demand Middle-Skill Jobs in Connecticut	Industry	2009 Median Annual Earnings*
Air Traffic Controllers	Transportation	\$101,910
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	Protective Services	\$60,490
Civil Engineering Technicians	Engineering	\$54,360
Carpenters	Construction	\$49,730
Automotive Mechanics	Installation, Maintenance, Repair	\$40,240

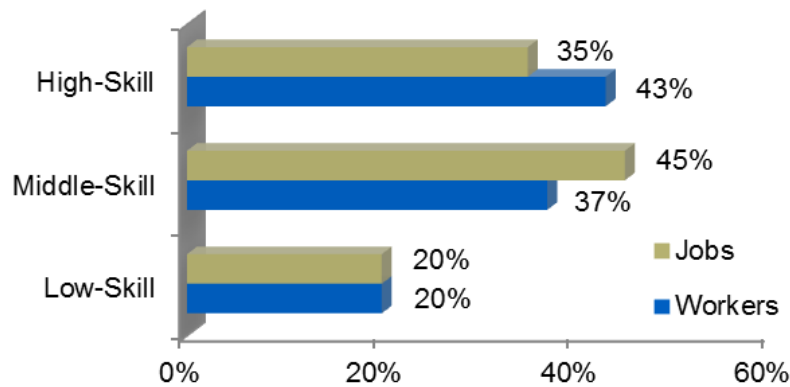
* 2009 median annual earnings for all occupations in Connecticut = \$40,120



Connecticut's Skills Mismatch: A Middle-Skills Gap

In 2009, about 45 percent of Connecticut's jobs were in middle-skill occupations. But only 37 percent of the state's workers likely have the appropriate training for these jobs.

Connecticut Jobs and Workers by Skill Level, 2009

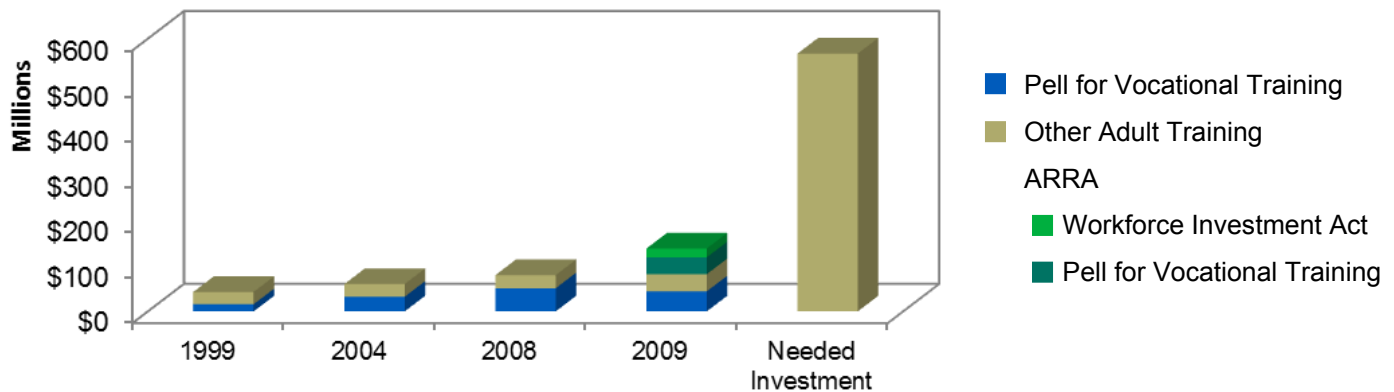


Sources: U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Bureau of the Census

Connecticut's Competitiveness Requires Federal Investments in Training for Middle-Skill Jobs

To maintain a strong economy, Connecticut must address its middle-skills gap by investing in a skilled workforce. Training just another 5 percent of Connecticut's workforce for middle-skill jobs would require a new investment, beyond existing state and federal programs, of at least \$485 million or 6.9 times Connecticut's current federal funding for all job training, adult education, vocational education, and financial aid for community college students.

Connecticut's Middle-Skills Investment Gap



Sources: U.S. Departments of Labor and Education. Note: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds were a one-time investment in adult training programs, and include Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Pell Grant for Vocational Training funding.