



New York

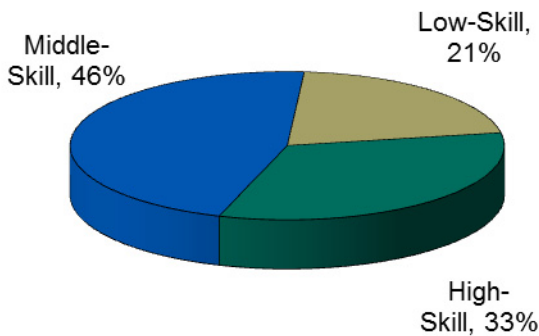
Growing New York’s Economy by Investing in the Forgotten Middle

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 New York’s labor market. All too often, key industries in New York 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 New York.

Years ago, our nation established a number of workforce development programs to meet this demand by preparing New York’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 New York too many workers struggle to find decent jobs and too many employers struggle to find skilled employees. Our federal policymakers—including New York’s congressional delegation—must address the investment shortfall in the forgotten middle of the labor market. New York simply can’t afford the lost jobs and productivity that complacency brings.

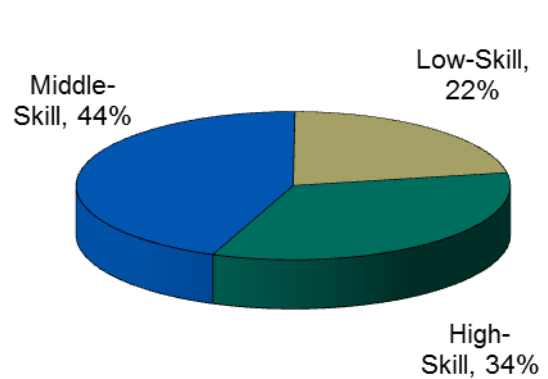
Demand for Middle-Skill Jobs is Strong, Will Remain Strong in New York

New York Jobs by Skill Level, 2008



Source: New York State Department of Labor

New York Jobs by Skill Level, 2018



Middle-Skill Jobs are the Backbone of New York’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 New York’s workers.

Examples of High-Demand Middle-Skill Jobs in New York	Industry	2009 Median Annual Earnings*
Air Traffic Controllers	Transportation	\$138,360
Civil Engineering Technicians	Engineering	\$48,920
Carpenters	Construction	\$48,150
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses	Healthcare	\$41,490
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	Trucking	\$41,360

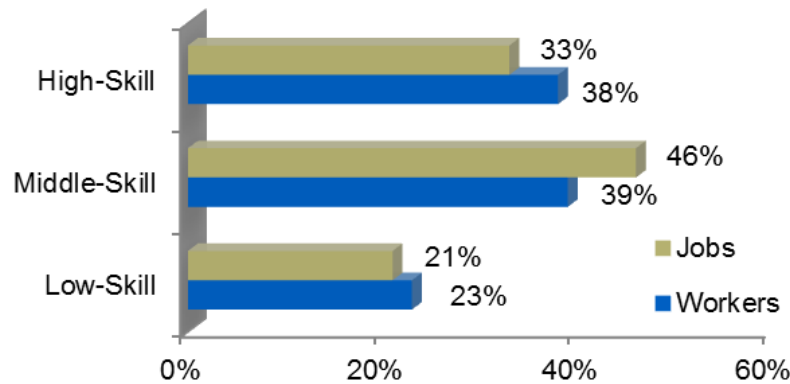
* 2009 median annual earnings for all occupations in New York = \$38,450



New York's Skills Mismatch: A Middle-Skills Gap

In 2009, about 46 percent of New York's jobs were in middle-skill occupations. But only 39 percent of the state's workers likely have the appropriate training for these jobs.

New York Jobs and Workers by Skill Level, 2009

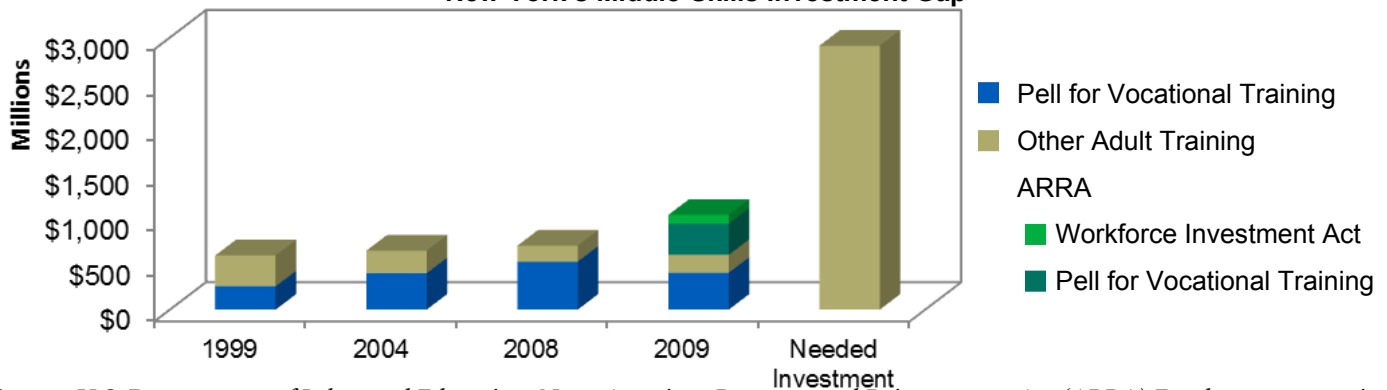


Sources: U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Bureau of the Census

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

To maintain a strong economy, New York must address its middle-skills gap by investing in a skilled workforce. Training just another 5 percent of New York's workforce for middle-skill jobs would require a new investment, beyond existing state and federal programs, of at least \$2.3 billion or 4.8 times New York's current federal funding for all job training, adult education, vocational education, and financial aid for community college students.

New York's Middle-Skills Investment Gap



Source: 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.