



# North Carolina

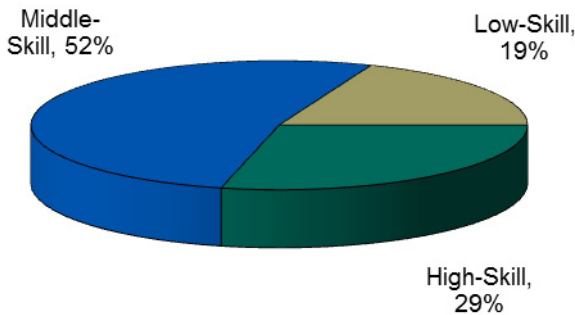
## Growing North Carolina's Economy by Investing in the Forgotten Middle

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 North Carolina's labor market. All too often, key industries in North Carolina 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 North Carolina.

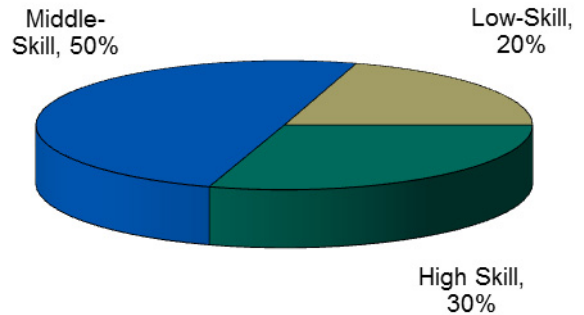
Years ago, our nation established a number of workforce development programs to meet this demand by preparing North Carolina's workers for middle-skill jobs. But since then, our federal education and training policies have largely forgotten about these jobs, and investments in the programs that prepare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

### Demand for Middle-Skill Jobs is Strong, Will Remain Strong in North Carolina

North Carolina Jobs by Skill Level, 2006



North Carolina Jobs by Skill Level, 2016



Source: North Carolina Employment Security Commission

### Middle-Skill Jobs are the Backbone of North Carolina'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 North Carolina's workers.

Examples of High-Demand Middle-Skill Jobs in North Carolina	Industry	2009 Median Annual Earnings*
Civil Engineering Technicians	Engineering	\$43,770
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses	Healthcare	\$39,490
Police and Sherriff's Patrol Officers	Protective Services	\$38,590
Automotive Mechanics	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	\$36,980
Carpenters	Construction	\$31,830

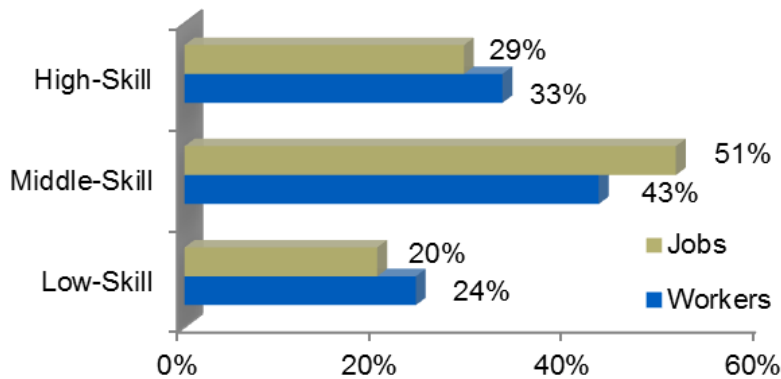
\* 2009 median annual earnings for all occupations in North Carolina = \$30,570



## North Carolina's Skills Mismatch: A Middle-Skills Gap

In 2009, about 51 percent of North Carolina's jobs were in middle-skill occupations. But only 43 percent of the state's workers likely have the appropriate training for these jobs.

**North Carolina Jobs and Workers by Skill Level, 2009**

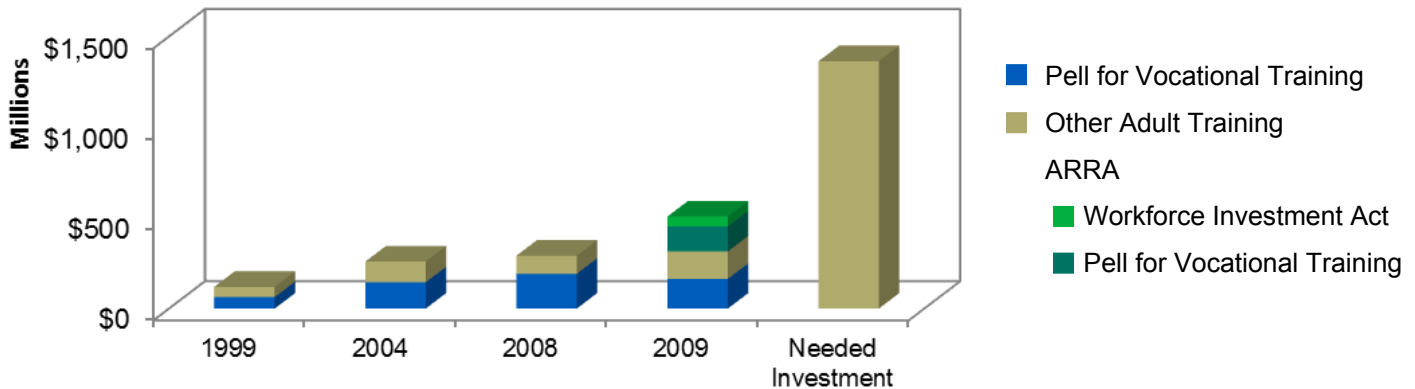


Sources: U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Bureau of the Census

## North Carolina's Competitiveness Requires Federal Investments in Training for Middle-Skill Jobs

To maintain a strong economy, North Carolina must address its middle-skills gap by investing in a skilled workforce. Training just another 5% of North Carolina's workforce for middle-skill jobs would require a new investment, beyond existing state and federal programs, of at least \$1.05 billion or 4.3 times North Carolina's current federal funding for all job training, adult education, vocational education, and financial aid for community college students.

**North Carolina'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.