



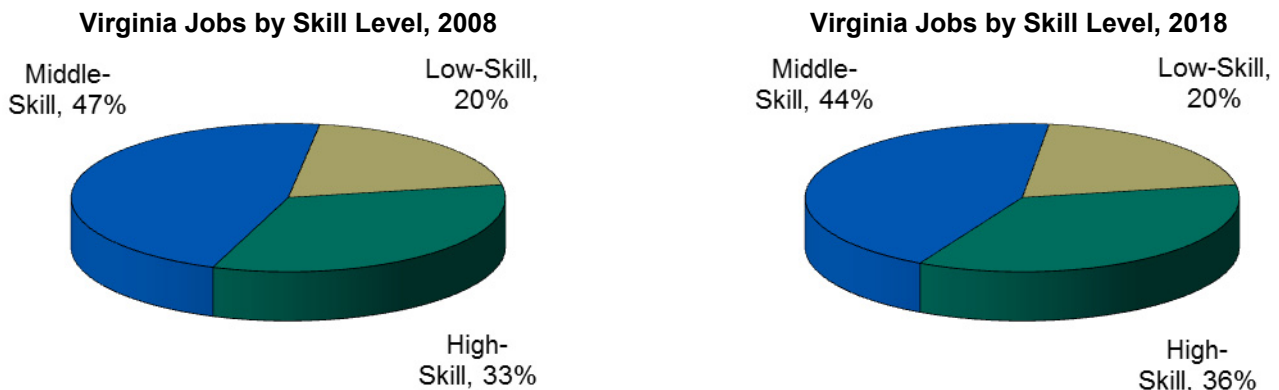
# Virginia

## Growing Virginia’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 Virginia’s labor market. All too often, key industries in Virginia 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 Virginia.

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

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



Source: Virginia Department of Labor and Industry

### Middle-Skill Jobs are the Backbone of Virginia’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 Virginia’s workers.

Examples of High-Demand Middle-Skill Jobs in Virginia	Industry	2009 Median Annual Earnings*
Air Traffic Controllers	Transportation	\$136,400
Police and Sherriff’s Patrol Officers	Protective Services	\$47,200
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses	Healthcare	\$37,210
Carpenters	Construct	\$37,210
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	Trucking	\$35,350

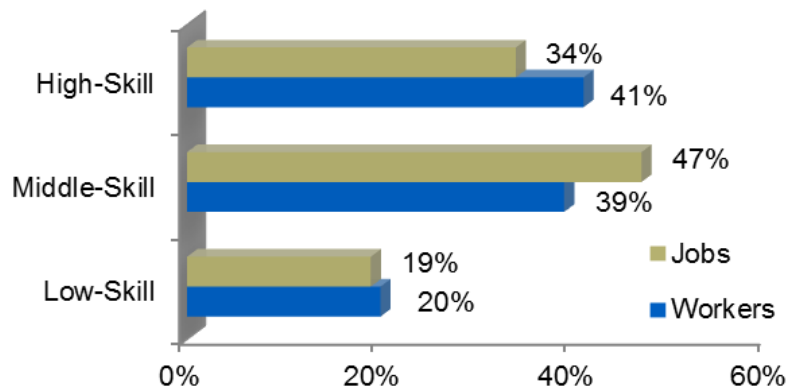
\* 2009 median annual earnings for all occupations in Virginia = \$34,840



## Virginia's Skills Mismatch: A Middle-Skills Gap

In 2009, about 47 percent of Virginia's jobs were in middle-skill occupations. But only 39 percent of the state's workers likely have the appropriate training for these jobs.

**Virginia Jobs and Workers by Skill Level, 2009**

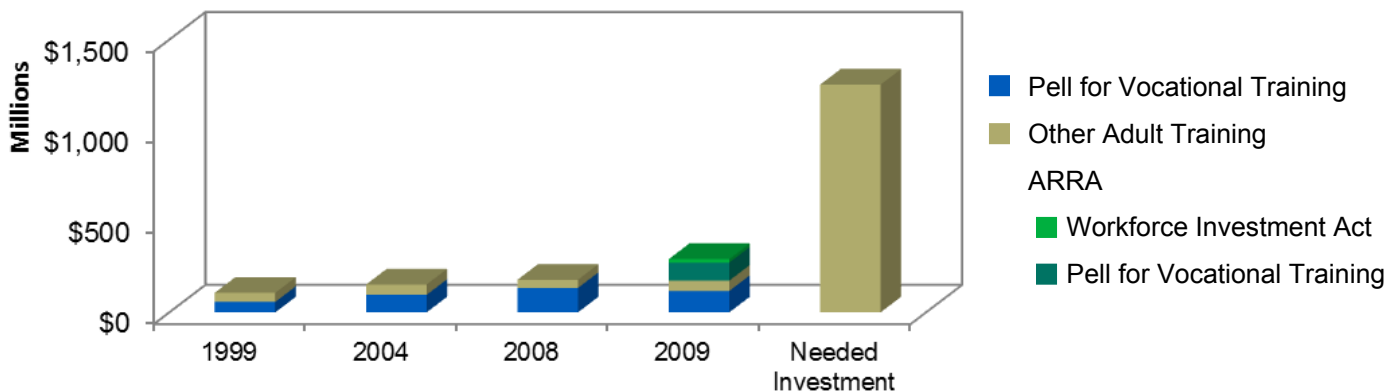


Sources: U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Bureau of the Census

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

To maintain a strong economy, Virginia must address its middle-skills gap by investing in a skilled workforce. Training just another 5 percent of Virginia's workforce for middle-skill jobs would require a new investment, beyond existing state and federal programs, of at least \$1 billion or 7.2 times Virginia's current federal funding for all job training, adult education, vocational education, and financial aid for community college students.

**Virginia'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.