



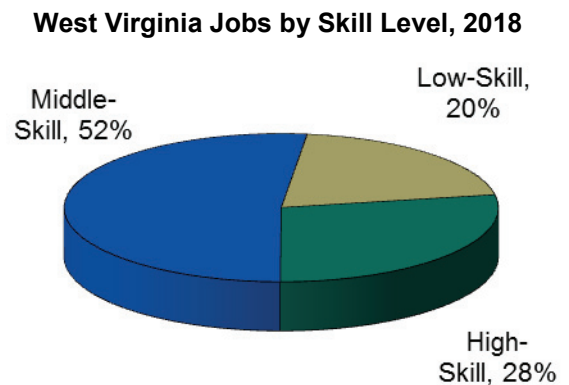
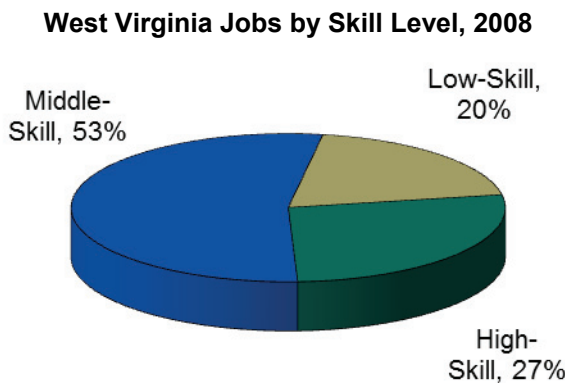
West Virginia

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

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

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



Source: Workforce West Virginia

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

Examples of High-Demand Middle-Skill Jobs in West Virginia	Industry	2009 Median Annual Earnings*
Air Traffic Controllers	Transportation	\$78,790
Civil Engineering Technicians	Engineering	\$39,230
Police and Sherriff’s Patrol Officers	Protective Services	\$34,870
Carpenters	Construction	\$32,160
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	Trucking	\$30,310

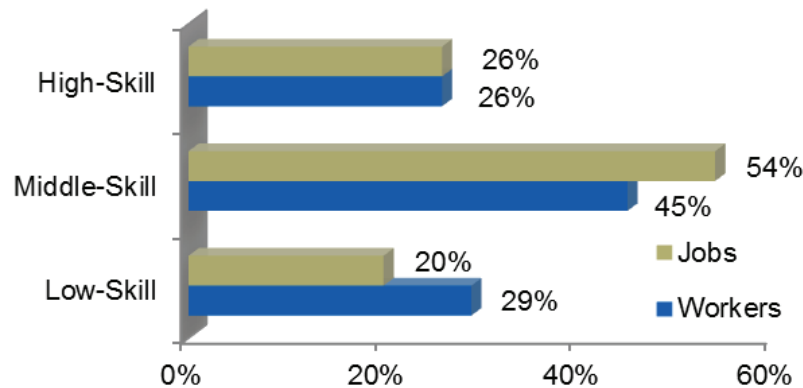
* 2009 median annual earnings for all occupations in West Virginia = \$27,000



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

In 2009, about 54 percent of West Virginia's jobs were in middle-skill occupations. But only 45 percent of the state's workers likely have the appropriate training for these jobs.

West Virginia Jobs and Workers by Skill Level, 2009

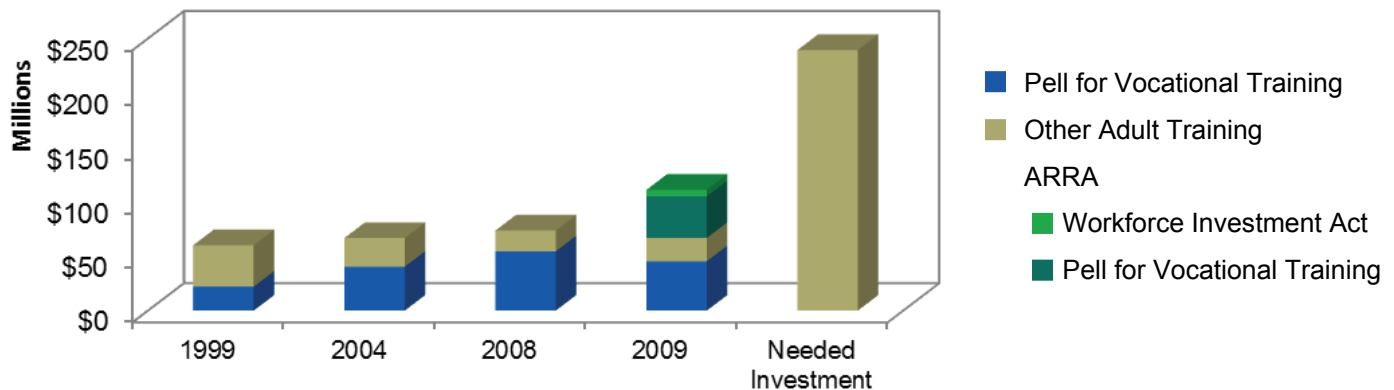


Sources: U.S. Department of Labor and U.S. Bureau of the Census

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

To maintain a strong economy, West Virginia must address its middle-skills gap by investing in a skilled workforce. Training just another 5 percent of West Virginia's workforce for middle-skill jobs would require a new investment, beyond existing state and federal programs, of at least \$172 million or 3.6 times West Virginia's current federal funding for all job training, adult education, vocational education, and financial aid for community college students.

West 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.