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THE LATEST ON CALIFORNIA POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

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California could face shortage of skilled workers

California's economic rebound could be retarded unless the state does a better job of training "middle-skill" workers, those with post-high school training but not college degrees, according to a new report by a labor-management coalition.

The "Skills2Compete" organization includes both major employer and union groups and its report, entitled "California's Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs," says that nearly half of California's jobs now fall into that category, and with economic growth and Baby Boomer retirements, the state will need some 2.7 million additional workers in middle-skill fields by 2016, with carpenters the largest single category.

The report is ammunition for a long-running debate in California over whether it places too much emphasis on college preparation in its high schools and denigrates vocational education, leading to worker shortages and high [dropout rates](#).

The full report is available [here](#).

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Posted by [Dan Walters](#)

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