

Study: Demand growing in Colorado for ‘middle skill’ workers

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Forty-seven percent of Colorado’s jobs require a “middle skill” level of education — a high school diploma but less than four years of college — according to a report released Monday.

The report on “Colorado’s Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs” was prepared by the Washington, D.C.-based National Skills Coalition for SkillBuild Colorado. The groups advocate training low-skill workers so they can move into better-paying middle-skill jobs.

In Colorado, there were 1,115,555 middle-skill jobs in 2009, the report says, versus 496,765 low-skill jobs — those requiring no college — and 812,036 high-skill jobs requiring at least four years of college.

The report says there are more middle-skill jobs available than there are workers with the appropriate education level to fill them. On the other hand, there are fewer high-skill jobs than there are high-skilled workers.

The study projects steady growth in middle-skill jobs in coming years, and that by 2019, Colorado will have 303,000 middle-skill job openings to fill.

Typical salaries for middle-skill positions described in the report include \$117,670 for air traffic controllers, \$60,940 for insurance claims adjusters and \$45,149 for plumbers.

> [Click here to download the report.](#)

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