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High demand for 'middle-skill' workers in Md.

Washington Business Journal - by [Jeff Clabaugh](#) Staff Reporter

Maryland employers will need to fill more than 434,000 "middle-skill" jobs between now and 2016, making up the largest portion of future job openings in the state, said a report by the **National Skills Coalition**.

The group defines middle-skill jobs as those that require more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year college degree.

It concluded those jobs will account for 42 percent of all job openings in Maryland between 2006 and 2016.

The coalition also said Maryland is not doing all it can to prepare its workforce for those jobs, saying 47 percent of all jobs are for middle-skill workers but only 37 percent of Maryland workers likely have the credentials to fill them.

"This is a really important time for Maryland to invest in training," said Andy Van Kleunen, executive director of the National Skills Coalition. "If Maryland seeks timely economic recovery and long-term prosperity, the state must ensure that its workforce has the necessary education and training to meet the labor demands of the future."

The report cited more than 30 types of middle-skill jobs expected to see growing demand in the next decade in Maryland, including manufacturing positions, police officers, carpenters and licensed practical nurses.

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