

NEW STUDY FINDS THERE WILL BE 55 MILLION JOB OPENINGS BY 2020

Study projects a short fall of 5 million workers with postsecondary education and training

(Washington, D.C., June 10, 2013) – Notwithstanding economic and political shocks, the economy will create 55 million new job openings over the next decade, according to a new report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. Twenty-four million openings will be for new jobs and 31 million will open up due to baby boomer retirements.

Four out of five of the fastest growing occupations — healthcare professional and technical, STEM, education, and community services — will require high levels of postsecondary education, (above 80%). Healthcare support occupations are the exception, where only 59 percent of jobs will require some postsecondary and training.

Without major changes to the U.S. postsecondary education system, the economy will fall short 5 million workers with postsecondary degrees by 2020.

“If the U.S. Congress can deal with budgetary challenges, we are on schedule for recovery,” said Anthony P. Carnevale, Director of the Center. “But we will still face a major shortage of college-educated workers especially as baby boomers retire.”

The study also finds that 65 percent of job vacancies will require some postsecondary education and training.

- 6 million jobs will require a graduate degree.
- 13 million jobs will require a baccalaureate degree.
- 7 million jobs will require an associate’s degree.
- *5 million jobs will require a postsecondary certificate.**
- 10 million jobs will require some college credit.
- 20 million jobs will not require education beyond high school.

Postsecondary education will be most in demand in healthcare, information technology, and government, where 80 percent of jobs will require more than a high school diploma.

The study also finds that for the upcoming jobs, the cognitive skills most valued and in demand are in leadership, communication, analytics, and administration. Physically intensive skills, by contrast, have declined over time, except for near vision, which has become more in demand as computers have become ubiquitous.

Finally, the report shows which occupations are growing or declining within each state and what level of education state residents will need get those jobs of the future.

- Thirty-two states and the District of Columbia will be at or above the 65 percent proportion of jobs (nationally) that will require postsecondary education beyond high school in 2020. In our previous report forecasting education demand up to 2018, only 19 states were above the national level.
- Jobs in the District of Columbia will have the highest concentration of postsecondary education in 2020.
- The highest proportion of Bachelor’s degree jobs and graduate degree jobs will be concentrated in the northeast.
- Jobs for workers with some college or an Associate’s degree will be dispersed throughout the country.
- Jobs for high school graduates or dropouts will be concentrated in the southern states.
- West Virginia remains 10 percentage points below the national average of the share of jobs that require postsecondary education and training. But Louisiana, Tennessee and Arkansas will also have a relatively higher proportion of jobs that require lower levels of education by 2020.

**We do not include postsecondary certificates in our calculations since many people hold these credentials jointly with some college credit.*

Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements through 2020, comprises an executive summary, a national report card and a state-level analysis. These are available online at <http://cew.georgetown.edu/recovery2020>.

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