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# REPORT *Facts and Trends*

The following articles appeared in recent issues of the *CAM Report* newsletter. See the *CAM Report* section of this website to read a sample issue and to learn more about how to subscribe.

## Report: Middle-Skill Jobs in Strong Supply

*Middle-skill jobs—those that require more than a high school diploma, but less than a four-year degree—will be plentiful in the next decade*, according to a report from the **Workplace Alliance**. The **US Department of Labor** predicts that **45 percent of all job openings between 2004 and 2014 will be in middle-skill careers**. This compares with 22 percent of the openings in service occupations and 33 percent in high-skill occupations. (Visit [www.skills2compete.org](http://www.skills2compete.org) for a list of middle-skill occupations.) Other conclusions from the report include:

✓ *There is substantial demand for individuals to fill skilled positions, especially those that require an associate degree or particular vocational training and certification.* Some of these positions are high paying.

✓ *The idea that there are fewer jobs in middle-skill occupations, and more in service and high-skill fields, is not true. There are still good opportunities in clerical, sales, construction, transportation, production, and installation/repair jobs. Employment and wage growth is especially strong in construction and health care occupations.*

✓ *The retirement of Baby Boomers will most strongly affect middle-skill occupations. Many new workers will be needed to replace these individuals.* The report also predicts that immigrants will be more apt to fill high-skill and service occupations than those in the middle-skill sector.

✓ *Employment has increased rapidly for many middle-skill jobs since 1986.* For instance, emergency and health diagnosing

positions increased by nearly 40 percent, therapist positions (such as respiratory, radiation, and recreational) by 30 percent, and blue-collar jobs (such as carpenters and heating and air conditioning mechanics) by 20 and 21 percent, respectively.

The report, *America's Forgotten Middle-Skill Jobs: Education and Training Requirements in the Next Decade and Beyond*, can be read by visiting [www.skills2compete.org/site/c.fhLIKYPPLuF/b.2786601](http://www.skills2compete.org/site/c.fhLIKYPPLuF/b.2786601).

## Interesting Job: Sports Product Test Supervisor

To test helmets for the **National Football League**, **Ron Gant**, a product test supervisor for **Riddell Helmet Company**, does not strap on a helmet and crash into things. He does, though, hit helmets with pneumatic test rams, drop them onto steel anvils, and pummel them with weights dropped from on high to see if they will crack. He also tests baseball and lacrosse helmets to ensure that collegiate and professional athletes avoid skull fractures and concussions that may curtail their careers or even end their lives. *Changing technology and building materials for sports equipment will continue to create employment opportunities for testing professionals.*

(*Chicago Sun-Times*, November 4, 2007)

## American Workplaces Becoming Safer

*Nonfatal illnesses and injuries in private industry fell to 4.4 per 100 full-time workers in 2006*, according to the **US Department of Labor**. This is the lowest rate since the department began keeping records in 1972. *Fatal injuries are also at an all-time low since the Department began tracking these statistics in 1992. In 2006, there were 3.9 fatal injuries per 100,000 workers.* The **National Safety Council** believes that *deaths and illnesses are down due to better safety programs in the workplace, as well as a decrease in the number of manufacturing jobs (one of the most dangerous career fields).*

(*US Department of Labor*)

### Job Definitions

**High-Skill Occupations:** Careers that require a bachelor's degree or higher. They are typically found in the professional/technical and managerial sectors of our economy.

**Middle-Skill Occupations:** Careers that require "significant education and training beyond high school, but less than a bachelor's degree. Postsecondary education and training requirements can include associate degrees, vocational certificates, significant on-the-job training, previous work experience, or some college less than a bachelor's degree."

**Low-Skill Occupations:** Careers that require a high school diploma or less. These careers are typically found in the service and agricultural industries.

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The *CAM Report* is published bimonthly September through May, and monthly in June and July. Annual Subscription Rate: \$75 in the US.

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