

# MANUFACTURING

## Industry poised to reinvigorate middle-skill jobs

Today's skills gap challenges the growth and global long-term competitiveness of both workers and employers. Using select data from LinkedIn and Strayer@Work's proprietary analysis, the Strayer@Work Skills Index takes an unprecedented look at specific skill sets that are in demand and in supply across top industries and provides actionable recommendations for getting the workforce up to speed.

### SKILL GAPS

High employer demand but low supply of employees with these skills

The industry's technology transformation is affecting its labor pool, and modern manufacturing skills dominate the list of biggest skill **deficits**:

Programming



Assembly language



Creativity



Analysis



Critical thinking



Cross-functional team leadership



From Q1 to Q2 2016, the **deficit** of **creativity** among LinkedIn users in manufacturing **increased**. The need for creative thinkers is clearly growing as new applications such as **3-D printing, robotics,** and the **Internet of Things** revolutionize manufacturing processes and operations.

### SKILL SURPLUSES

Low employer demand but high supply of employees with these skills

Meanwhile, we find **surpluses** in several broad and basic skill sets long established in the industry:

Customer service



Team building



Strategic planning



Marketing strategy



Microsoft Office



**Takeaway:** Many people are predisposed to see manufacturing work as low-skill work on an assembly line. However, technological change coupled with **globalized competition is forcing manufacturers to evolve their labor force**. Modern **manufacturing jobs call for creativity** to rethink and streamline processes; as such, **these jobs are more compelling and satisfying than ever before**. Could manufacturing be an unlikely hero for the **revival of middle-skill jobs**?

For more information, visit [skillsindex.com](http://skillsindex.com).

**Methodology:** The Strayer@Work® Skills Index analyzed select skills in the public profiles of LinkedIn members in the United States who work in the financial services, food and beverage, healthcare, hospitality, information technology, manufacturing, and retail industries. It measures both the supply and demand of the select skills. The supply side of the formula measures how prevalent select skills are within the profiles of members in a particular industry, relative to the overall population of LinkedIn members in the U.S. The demand side of the formula shows how desired select skills are within a particular industry, relative to its overall demand, as measured by U.S. members who received an InMail message from a recruiter within the past year.