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
51% ▼	48% ▼	38% ▼	33% ▼	29% ▼	29% ▼

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
45% ▲	40% ▲	29% ▲	19% ▲	10% ▲

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.**