

**Education and Work Survey of the
Manufacturing Industry**
Summary Report

conducted for
University of Missouri at St. Louis
Public Policy Research Center



by
ETC Institute

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Manufacturing Industry Survey

Executive Summary

Methodology

ETC Institute administered a survey for the University of Missouri at St. Louis, Public Policy Research Center, during the Fall of 2006. The purpose of the survey was to gather input from businesses in the manufacturing industry to help identify current and future industry workforce needs.

The survey was administered by phone to a random sample of 203 manufacturing companies in the St. Louis metropolitan area. The overall results of the survey have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/- 5.4%.

This report contains (1) a summary of the major findings, (2) charts depicting the overall results of the survey, (3) tabular data for the overall results to each question on the survey, and (4) a copy of the survey instrument.

Major Findings

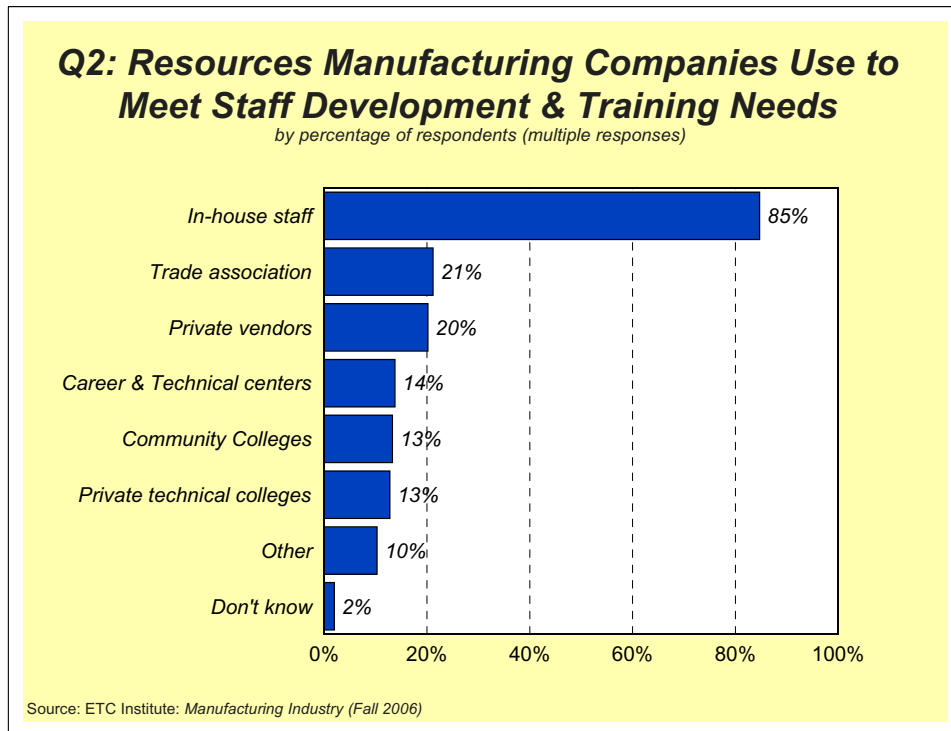
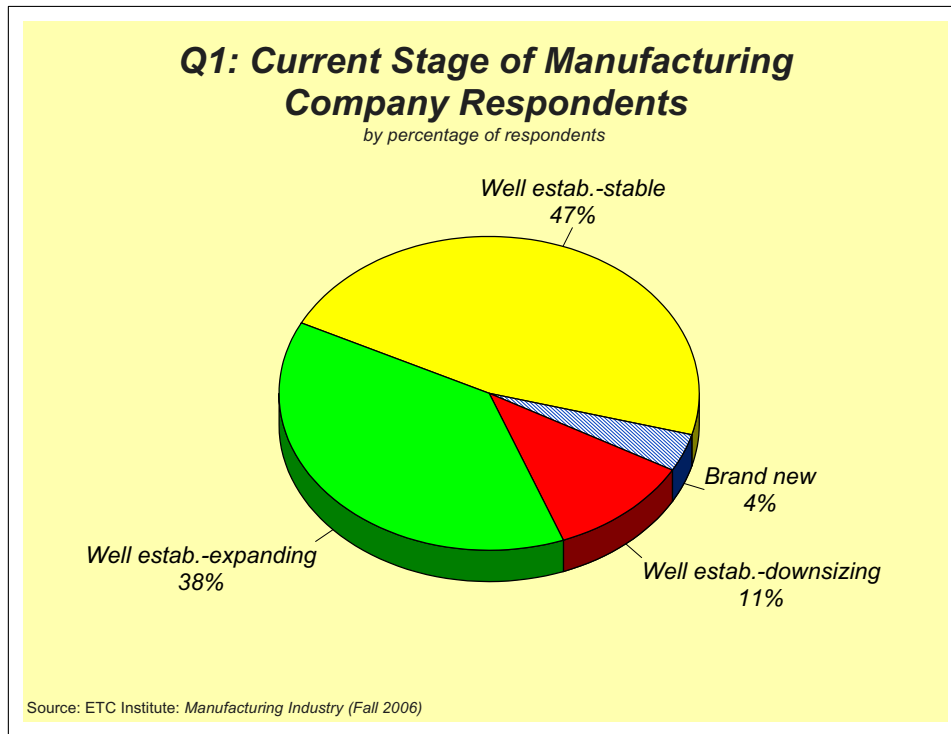
- **Current Stage of Manufacturing Companies.** Four percent (4%) of the companies surveyed indicated that they were a “start up or brand new business.” Forty-seven percent (47%) of the companies surveyed indicated that they were a “well established and stable business;” 38% were “well established and expanding,” and the remaining 11% “well established and downsizing.”
- **Resources Used for Staff Development/Training.** In-house staff (85%) was mentioned most often by manufacturing companies as a resource used to meet staff development and training needs. Trade Associations was next at 21%; followed by Private Vendors (20%), Career and Technical centers (14%), Community Colleges (13%), and Private Technical Colleges (13%).

- **Past Employee Growth.** More than two-thirds (69%) of those surveyed had added at least once employee during the past year. One-third (31%) of the manufacturing companies surveyed have not added any *full-time* employees.
- **How Manufacturing Companies Think The Number of Positions They Have Will Change.** One-third (35%) of companies surveyed thought that Production/Assembly positions would increase over the next 12 months. Thirty-one percent (31%) of the companies thought that Technical Skill positions will increase.
- **Current Challenges for Manufacturing Companies.** Twenty-seven percent (27%) of the manufacturing companies surveyed felt that it was challenging to find employees that have advanced computer skills. Other skills/attributes that manufacturing companies considered to be challenges were: technical job skills, time management skills, and getting employees to show up to work on time.
- **Projected Growth in the Manufacturing Industry.** Nearly half (47%) of the manufacturing companies surveyed indicated that their total employment would “increase” over the next 12 months. Forty-nine percent (49%) of the companies surveyed thought their company would “stay about the same.” Only one percent (1%) of the manufacturing companies indicated that total employment would “decrease” within their company over the next 12 months. The remaining 3% did not have an opinion.

Other Findings

- The three most beneficial types of training to the manufacturing companies surveyed were: OSHA 10 Safety Certification, training to develop basic math skills, and forklift operation training.
- Thirty percent (30%) of the manufacturing companies that participated in the survey have an Internal Training Department.
- More than one-third (36%) of the manufacturing businesses surveyed have added at least one (1) *temporary employee* to their company over the last 12 months.

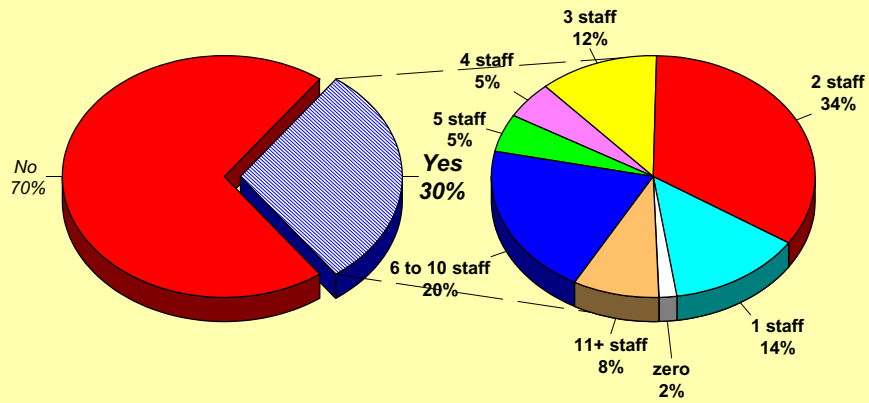
Charts and Graphs



Q3: Percentage of Manufacturing Companies That Have an Internal Training Department

by percentage of respondents

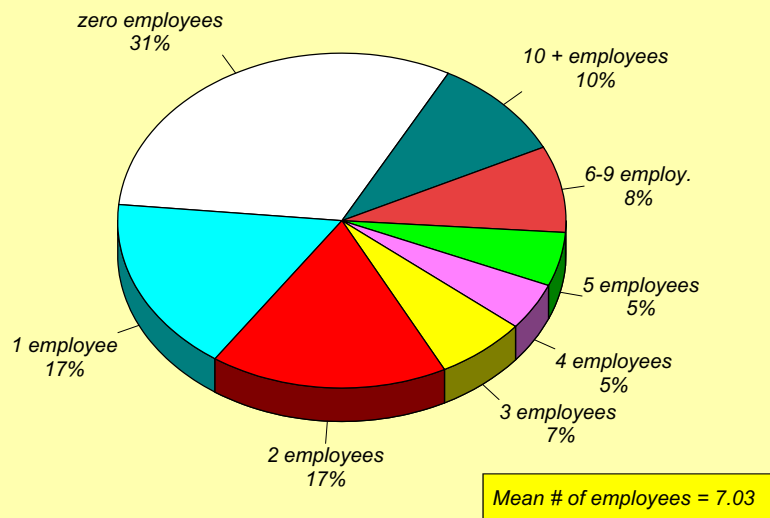
Q3a. Number of Staff in the Internal Training Department



Source: ETC Institute: Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)

Q4: Number of Full-Time Employees That Have Been Added to Manufacturing Companies Over the Last 12 Months

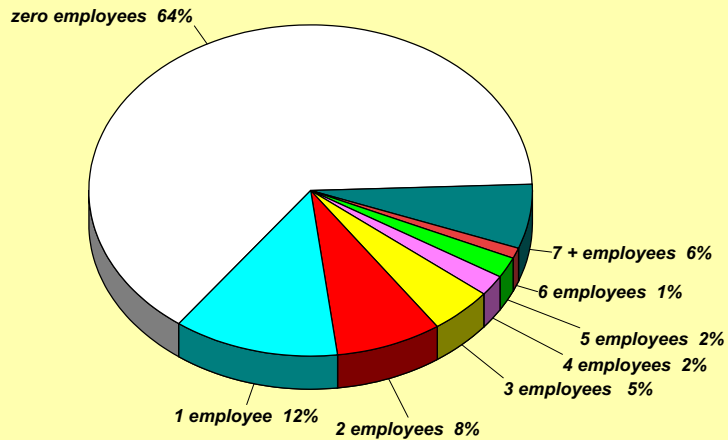
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute: Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)

Q5: Number of Temporary Employees That Have Been Added to Manufact. Companies Over the Last 12 Months

by percentage of respondents

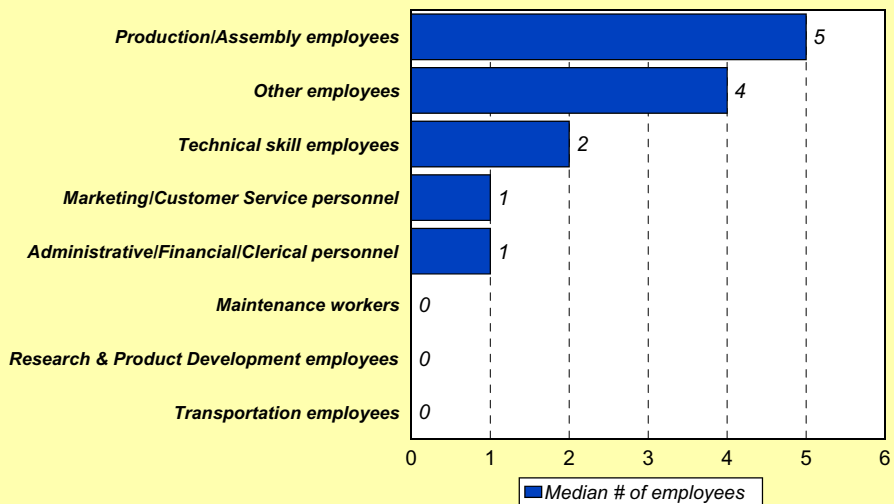


Mean # of employees = 3.5

Source: ETC Institute: Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)

Q6a: Number of Permanent Employees Manufacturing Companies Have in Various Positions

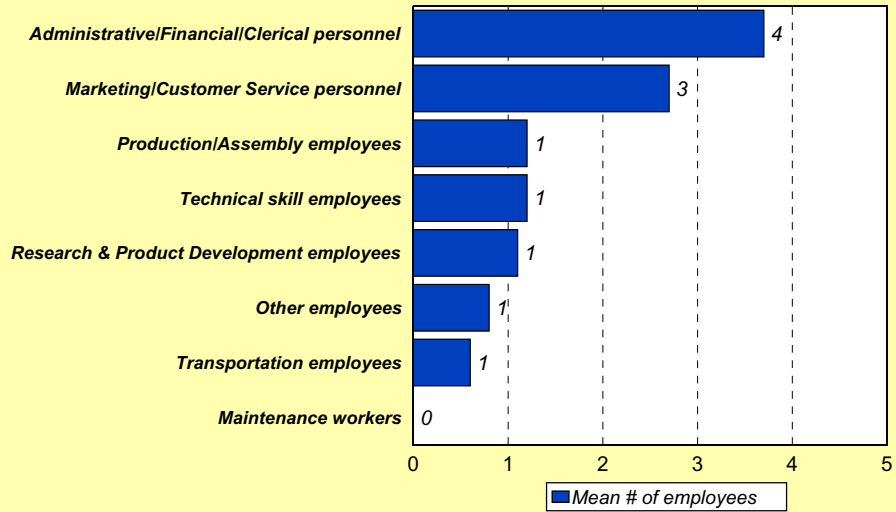
median number of employees reported by companies that responded to the survey



Source: ETC Institute: Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)

**Q6a: Number of Temporary Employees
Manufacturing Companies Have in Various Positions**

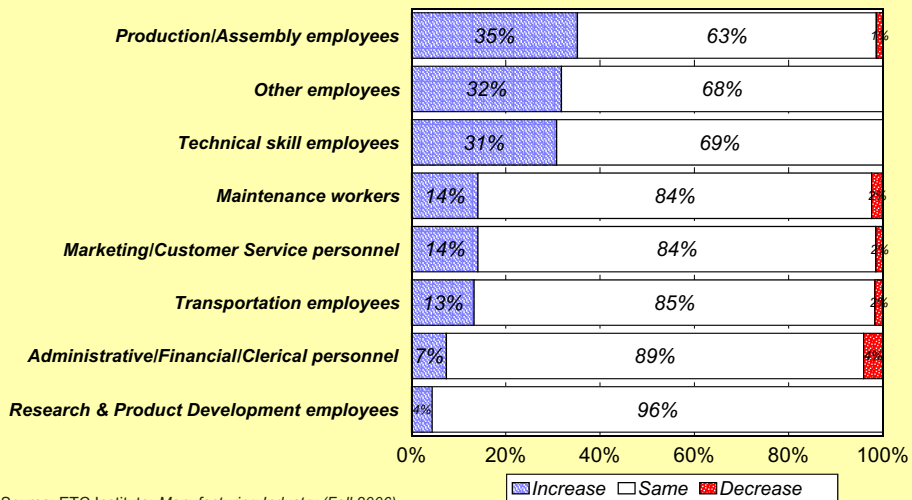
mean number of employees reported by companies that responded to the survey



Source: ETC Institute: Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)

**Q6b: How Manufacturing Companies Think
the Number of Employees in Each Position
Will Change Over the Next 12 Months**

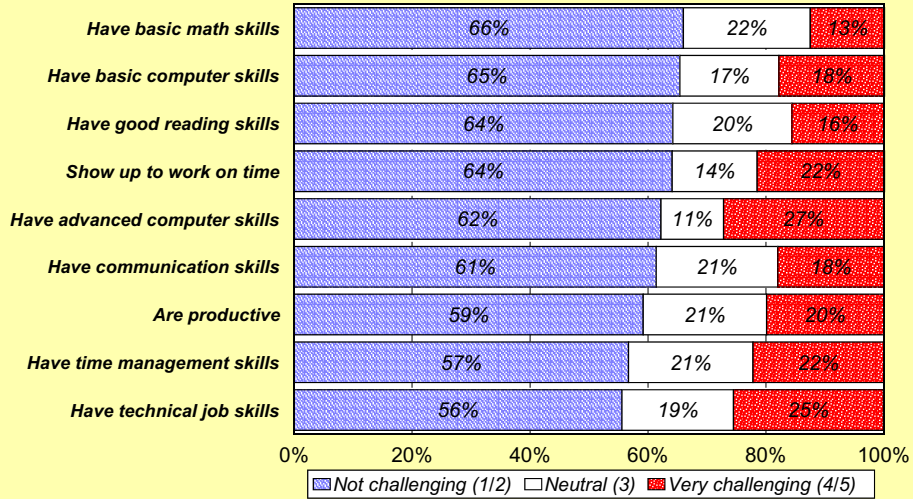
by percentage of respondents (excluding don't knows)



Source: ETC Institute: Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)

Q7: How Challenging it Currently is For Manufacturing Companies to Get Employees With Various Skills or Attributes

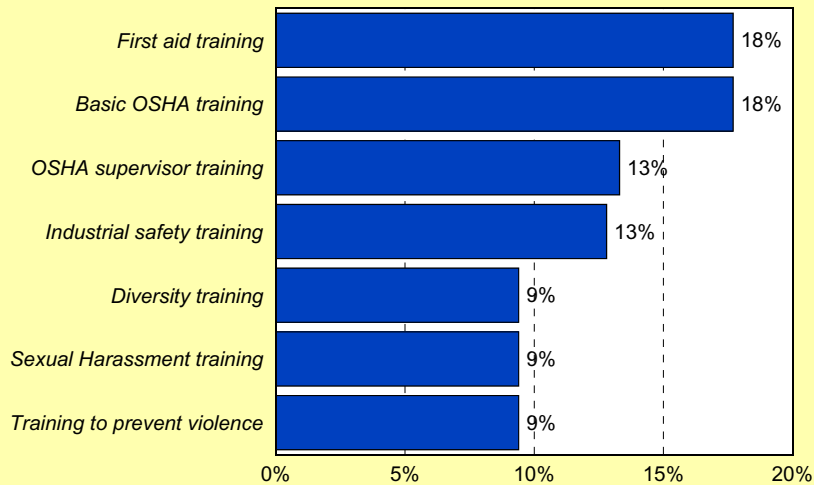
by percentage of respondents who rated each item as a 1 to 5 on a 5-point scale (excluding don't knows)



Source: ETC Institute: Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)

Q8: Training Topics Manufacturing Companies Would be Interested in Offering to Their Employees

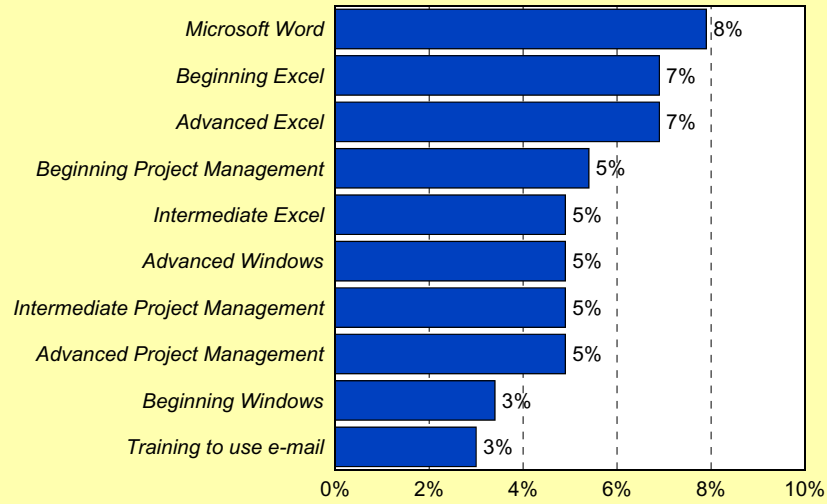
by percentage of respondents (multiple responses)



Source: ETC Institute: Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)

Q9: Computer Training Topics Manufacturing Companies Would be Interested in Offering to Their Employees

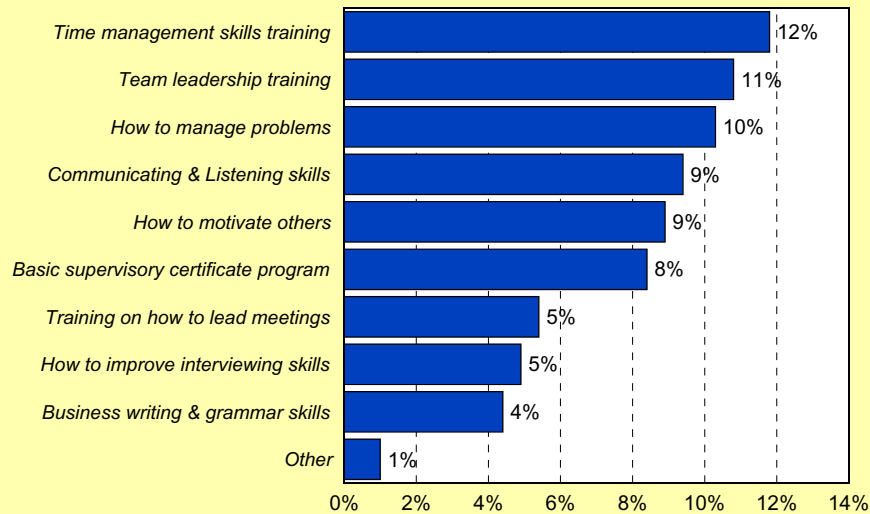
by percentage of respondents (multiple responses)



Source: ETC Institute: Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)

Q10: Management Training Topics Manufact. Companies Would be Interested in Offering to Their Employees

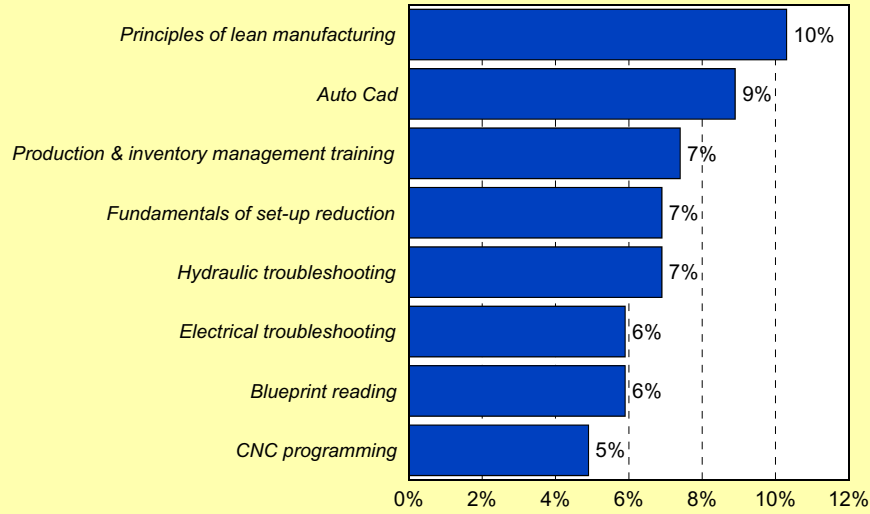
by percentage of respondents (multiple responses)



Source: ETC Institute: Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)

Q11: OTHER Training Topics Manufacturing Companies Would be Interested in Offering to Their Employees

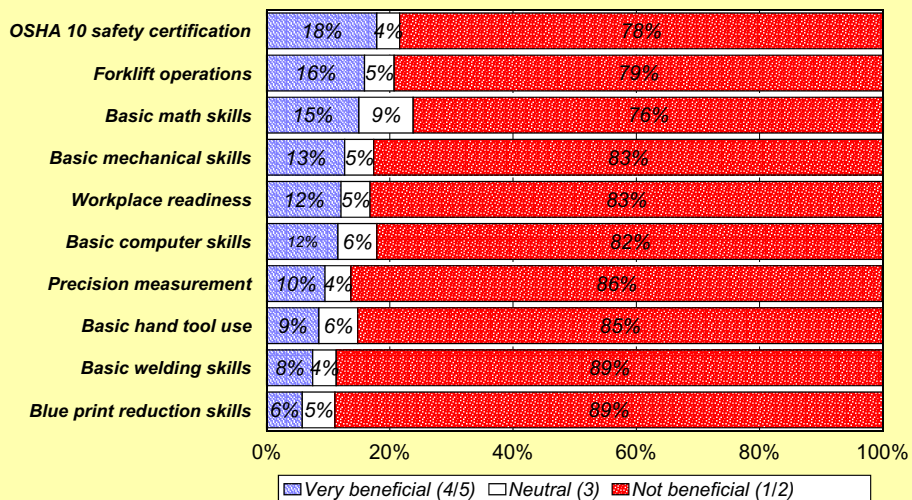
by percentage of respondents (multiple responses)



Source: ETC Institute: Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)

Q13: How Beneficial Respondents Thought Various Training Topics Would Be

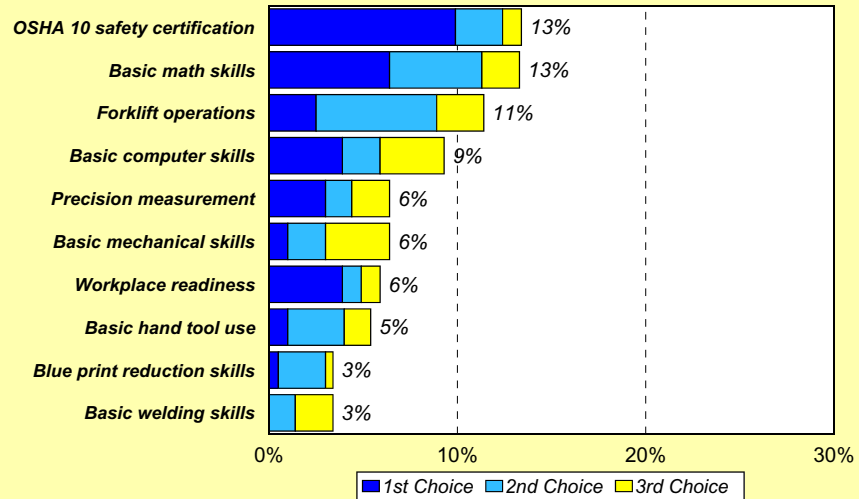
by percentage of respondents who rated each item as a 1 to 5 on a 5-point scale (excluding don't knows)



Source: ETC Institute: Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)

Q14: Training Topics That Manufacturing Companies Indicated Are MOST Beneficial to Their Company

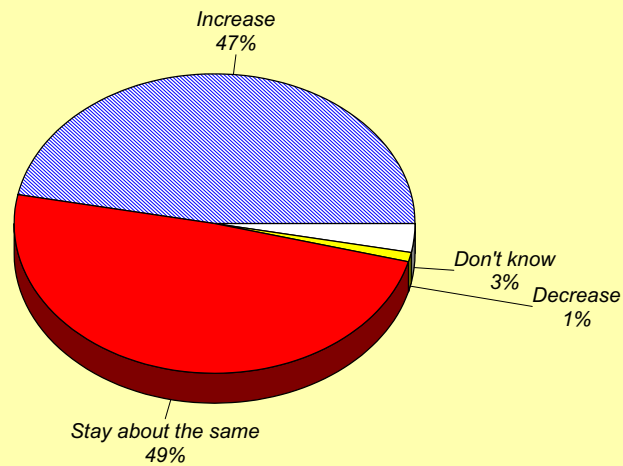
by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices



Source: ETC Institute: Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)

Q15: Does Your Company Plan to Increase or Decrease Total Employment Over the Next 12 Months?

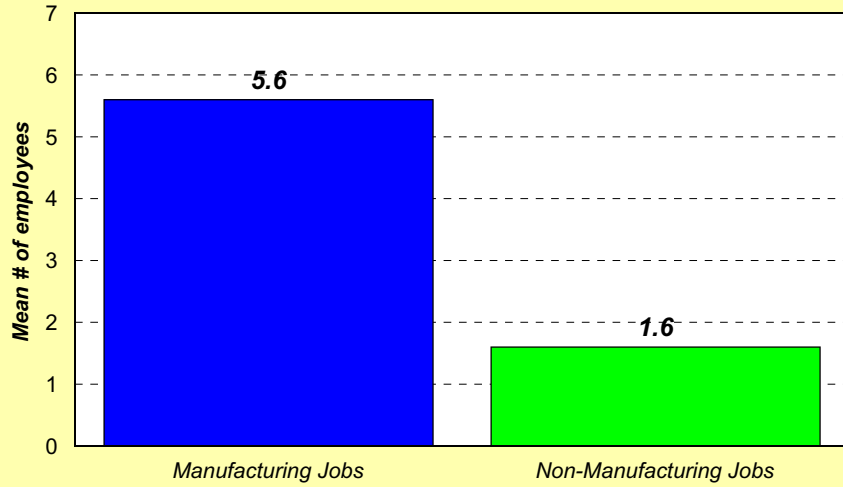
by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute: Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)

Q15a & b. How Many Jobs Does Your Company Plan to Add (or Reduce) Over the Next 12 Months?

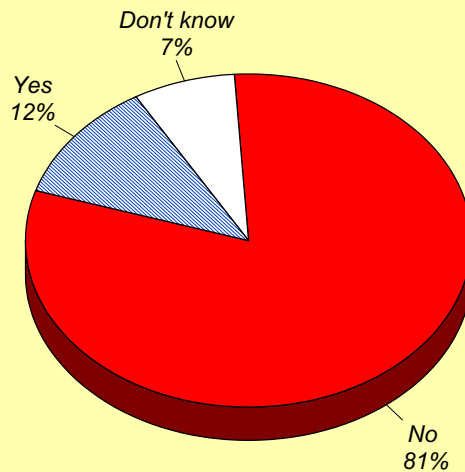
mean number of employees reported by companies that plan on increasing or decreasing employment



Source: ETC Institute: *Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)*

Q16: Would You be Interested in Participating in a Regional Training Group That Would Inform Training Providers of Current and Future Needs and to Share Training Costs?

by percentage of respondents



Source: ETC Institute: *Manufacturing Industry (Fall 2006)*