

## Fast facts about workplace literacy

# Did you know?

Approximately **40 million** adults have limited literacy skills, according to the National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS), making tasks such as filling out an application or reading a food label difficult.

**Eighty percent** of manufacturers report a moderate to severe shortage of qualified job candidates, according to a national survey released by the National Association of Manufacturers in November 2001.

**One-third** of companies report that poor reading and writing skills among hourly workers are a problem, according to a national survey released by the National Association of Manufacturers in November 2001.

Nearly **40 percent** of manufacturers are spending at least **2 percent** of payroll on training for shop-floor and other hourly workers, up from less than 1 percent in the early 1990s, according to a survey released by the National Association of Manufacturers in 1998.

**20 percent**  
of two-year  
college graduates  
with full-time  
employment have  
low literacy skills.

— U.S. Department of Education,  
National Center for Education  
Statistics 1992 National  
Adult Literacy Survey

## More Facts ...

Increasing the educational level of workers in an establishment by one year is associated with an **8.6 percent** increase in output for all industries, according to the 1994 Educational Quality of the Workforce-National Employer Survey. The increase is **11 percent** for the nonmanufacturing sector.

**10 percent**  
of four-year  
college  
graduates with  
full-time  
employment  
have low  
literacy skills.

— U.S. Department of Education,  
National Center for Education  
Statistics 1992 National  
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Formal, employer-provided training increases productivity anywhere from **10 percent to 16 percent**, according to a study by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that by 2008 there will be a **9 percent** increase in jobs that require apprenticeships or work-based training that lasts longer than a year.

**Fifty-six percent** of the companies responding to the 1994 Educational Quality of the Workforce-National Employer Survey reported that the skill requirements for nonsupervisory jobs have increased.

Only **25 percent** of the nation's workforce can read a description of two kinds of employee benefits and explain the differences.

Only **26 percent** can use an eligibility pamphlet to calculate how much supplemental security income they would receive.

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