

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
Adult Literacy Survey

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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