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LOOMING LABOR SHORTAGES

Futurists looking beyond the current unemployment figures see a different problem over the horizon: worker shortages in a wide variety of fields.

Widespread losses of manufacturing jobs in the United States over the past two years conceal a coming shortage of highly skilled workers that could undermine the nation's competitiveness, warns the National Association of Manufacturers. In a recent study, four out of five large and small manufacturers reported a "moderate to serious" shortage of qualified job applicants. Managers blame young people's lack of interest in manufacturing careers, which are stereotyped as "assembly-line" work rather than highly skilled occupations.

Restaurants and other food services will also have trouble filling openings. Human resources--specifically, finding, training, and keeping the best employees--was ranked the number-one concern for U.S. restaurant managers surveyed by the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration.


MORE on labor shortages: Workforce Stability Institute, http://www.workforcestability.org

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