

Executive Summary

Skills Gap Manufacturing Survey

Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District

Purpose of Survey: For the past two years, Congressman Fitzpatrick has visited 100 Businesses in 100 Days. During these visits in the summer of 2013, the manufacturers visited expressed an acute skills gap. The survey was developed to learn more from a wider range of manufacturing businesses throughout the 8th Congressional District.

Methodology: In January of 2014, surveys were mailed to approximately 1,700 manufacturing-affiliated companies throughout the 8th Congressional District of Pennsylvania listed in the 2012 Pennsylvania Industrial Directory published by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economy Development. Nearly 200 surveys, or approximately 12% of the surveys, were returned as completed.

Findings: *Local manufacturers are optimistic about the future and intend to hire, yet, the skills gap holds back their ability to grow.*

- Over **70%** of respondents agree that “it is difficult to find employees with the right skills.”
- Nearly **2/3's** of respondents agree that “the lack of skilled workers makes it harder for my business to grow.”
- Less than **20%** of respondents agree that “local educational institutions provide our company with the trained workers we need.”
- Nearly **60%** of respondents agree that “my company intends to hire in the next 6 months.”
- Over **60%** of respondents agree that “my company intends to hire in the next 18 months.”
- Over **70%** of respondents agree that “my company is optimistic about our future success.”
- **Operators and Machinists** are the careers in highest demand
- Tax Reform (24%) is the largest priority for respondents, followed by Trained Workforce (15%), and, Energy Costs (14%). Buy American initiatives were also a priority.

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Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick is serving his third term in the U.S. House of Representatives. He represents Pennsylvania's 8th district which includes all of Bucks County as well as a portion of Montgomery County. He serves as the Vice Chairman of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.