



BEYOND THE HEADLINES

At a Glance: Jobs, Workers & the Economy

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FOCUS: SEATTLE

Locating Middle-Wage Jobs in Seattle

In last month’s edition of *Beyond the Headlines*, we explored the resurgence of middle-skill jobs in Seattle following the Great Recession. Middle-skill jobs are those that require some postsecondary education but less than a bachelor’s degree. Seattle Jobs Initiative takes that definition one step further by examining “middle-wage jobs” – middle-skill jobs that pay a median wage of at least \$17 per hour.

SJI focuses its education and training programs on providing pathways to middle-wage jobs, and we are thus concerned with locating where these jobs are in Seattle in order to best serve our participants. **Figure 1** illustrates the density of middle-wage jobs within the Seattle zip code region.¹ Areas that are more densely shaded in orange are those with higher concentrations of middle-wage jobs. Areas that are less densely shaded in orange represent areas with lower concentrations of middle-wage jobs.

Figure 2, on the following page, displays the number of middle-wage jobs in Seattle by zip code, openings, and growth. The highest concentration of middle-wage jobs can be found in the downtown area of Seattle. Specifically, the downtown area provides nearly 48,000 middle-wage jobs to the region. This is likely due to the abundance of

FIGURE 1:
2014 Middle-Wage Jobs in Seattle



SOURCE: EMSI 2014.2 Class of Worker, QCEW and Non-QCEW Workers

retail, tourism, seafood preparation, and water transportation establishments. The SODO, Harbor Island, Beacon Hill, and Georgetown neighborhoods combined contribute just over 16,500 middle-wage jobs. These jobs are mostly concentrated in manufacturing and port-related activities due to the inclusion of a large industrial district and the Port of Seattle within these areas.² Additionally, Queen Anne and the Central District add another 14,434 middle-wage jobs to the area. The development of the South Lake Union neighborhood located within the same zip code as Queen Anne is a driving force behind the prominence of middle-wage jobs in the region.³

**FIGURE 2:
2014 Middle-Wage Jobs by Zip Code in Seattle**

ZIP CODE	NEIGHBORHOOD	2014 JOBS	ANNUAL OPENINGS	2012-2017 JOBS ADDED	2012-2017 % CHANGE IN JOBS ADDED
98104	Downtown Seattle	26,283	1,059	2,484	10%
98101	Downtown Seattle	15,117	703	1,933	14%
98108	Georgetown/Beacon Hill	9,350	394	990	11%
98109	Queen Anne/South Lake Union	8,590	372	993	12%
98134	SODO	7,159	296	734	11%
98121	Downtown Seattle	6,463	319	939	15%
98195	University District	5,950	201	441	8%
98122	Central District	5,844	221	536	10%
98119	Interbay	5,356	240	451	9%
98133	Northwest Seattle	5,152	215	571	12%
98105	University District	4,568	199	545	13%
98103	Fremont/Greenwood	4,492	239	751	18%
98107	Ballard	3,348	146	390	12%
98144	Mt Baker	2,694	130	384	15%
98115	Northeast Seattle	2,239	105	315	15%
98118	Rainier Valley	2,226	89	232	11%
98125	North Seattle	2,079	95	262	13%
98199	Magnolia	2,028	100	276	15%
98106	Delridge	2,002	104	285	16%
98102	Capitol Hill	1,960	90	255	14%
98112	Madison Park	1,546	70	207	14%
98116	Alki	1,194	58	173	15%
98117	North Beach	1,092	52	154	15%
98126	West Seattle/Fairmount Park	852	37	100	12%
98177	Broadview	711	28	71	10%
98136	West Seattle/Fauntleroy	503	24	71	15%

SOURCE: EMSI 2014.2 Class of Worker, QCEW and Non-QCEW Workers

Seattle has an abundance of middle-wage jobs located in several different neighborhoods. Downtown, the Industrial District, and South Lake Union are the primary contributors to numerous middle-wage jobs. Furthermore, all middle-wage jobs in the Seattle zip code region are expected to continue to grow into the foreseeable future. Workforce development programs in Seattle should direct their participants to jobs within these neighborhoods in an effort to better assist them in securing living-wage careers.

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1. Map was generated using Economic Modeling Specialists, International's GIS abilities. Middle-wage jobs were plotted by zip code.
 2. "On the Move: Building Pathways to International Trade, Transportation, and Logistics Jobs in the Port-related Economy," Port Jobs, September 2013, 4-6, http://www.portjobs.org/storage/documents/_Port_Jobs_ITTL_report_FINAL_web.pdf.
 3. "South Lake Union Development Employment Impact," *Community Attributes Inc.*, January 2012, 1, http://www.seattle.gov/economicdevelopment/pdf_files/SLUplanDevEmploymentImpacts.2012.pdf.

BEYOND THE HEADLINES: Policy & Labor Market Updates for Those Working to Help Low-Income and Low-Skill Individuals Advance through Education, Training & Living-Wage Jobs

About Seattle Jobs Initiative

Seattle Jobs Initiative creates opportunities for students, workers and business to succeed by helping education and job training programs meet the demands of a new economy. We find and apply solutions for people to gain the skills they need for good jobs that create prosperity for all in today's marketplace.

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Contact Information

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