



INTRODUCTION

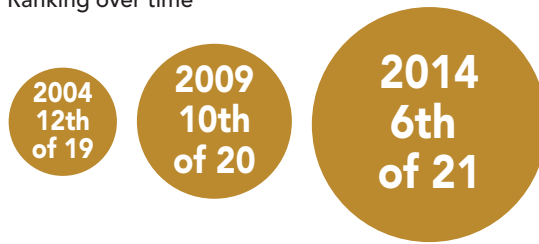
ICMA's Survey Research Team has collected information on the economic development priorities, practices, and challenges of local governments for several decades. The ICMA Economic Development Survey is a national survey of U.S. counties and municipalities, conducted every five years. The most recent iteration was launched in 2014.

IMPACT OF SKILLED LABOR ON LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

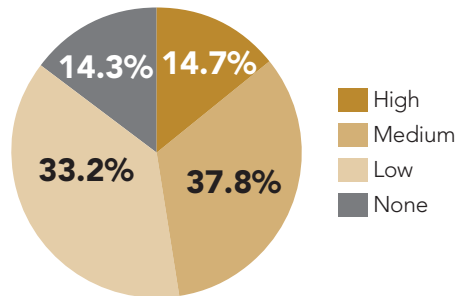
- **Lack of skilled labor** is a growing concern among U.S. local governments. Among various factors identified as the most important barriers to local economic development, lack of skilled labor has been **steadily increasing in rank**.
- In 2014, **85.3% of communities** responding to ICMA's Economic Development Survey identified a lack of skilled labor as an important barrier to economic development, with **46.5% of respondents** indicating either **medium or high importance** in their communities.
- Regional differences in responses were not particularly large, though communities in the **New England and Mid-Atlantic** regions generally reported lack of skilled labor as having **less importance** in impeding economic development.

Lack of skilled labor as a barrier to economic development

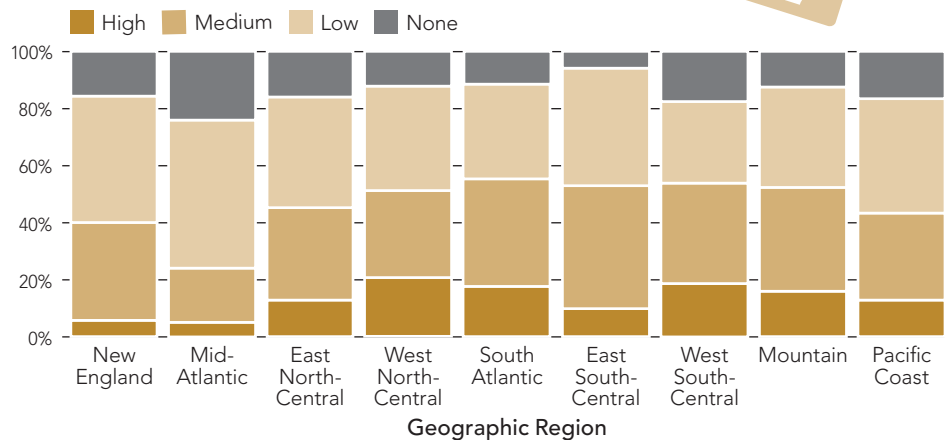
Ranking over time



Importance as a barrier in 2014



Importance as a barrier by geographic region, 2014



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Full details from the ICMA Economic Development Survey as well as other local government economic development resources can be found on ICMA's website.

- ICMA Economic Development Survey Report—www.icma.org/2014economicdevelopmentsurveyreport
- ICMA Survey Research Datasets—http://icma.org/en/press/data_sets
- ICMA Economic Development Topic Area—www.icma.org/KN/economicdevelopment

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