EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS: ANALYZING DATA FROM MANUFACTURING

This Cluster Analysis of Manufacturing in the Commonwealth highlights information important to each of the four pathways — Maintenance, Installation & Repair; Manufacturing Production Process Development; Production; and Quality Assurance— included in this career cluster.

What trends do we currently see? What trends may we anticipate?

• By 2022, this cluster is anticipated to include over 300,000 positions across the Commonwealth, which range from Home Appliance Repairers, to Mechanical Engineering Technicians, to Sheet Metal Workers.

• Though the Production pathway is anticipated to grow by the smallest amount (1 percent between 2012 and 2022), it is comprised of the greatest number of total positions—nearly 162,000.

• Each of the four pathways of this cluster includes positions available to individuals with a wide variety of education levels.

EDUCATION

Figure 1 shows the predominant level1 of education and training in each pathway. Education classification is determined by Trailblazers, based on US Bureau of Labor Statistics occupational education and training data.

Footnote 1: Reflects predominant education by the number of occupations in each pathway, not the number of workers
EMployment

Figure 2 compares the estimated 2012 employment for each pathway to projected 2022 employment levels.

Data are provided by the Virginia Employment Commission.

Earnings and Growth

Figure 3 presents the size and median wage-earning for the two fastest-growing occupations in each pathway. Wage data are provided by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Occupational Employment Statistics program.