

# Four State Policy Levers to End Michigan's Two-Tier Economy

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# 38%

**of Michigan households can't afford basic necessities**

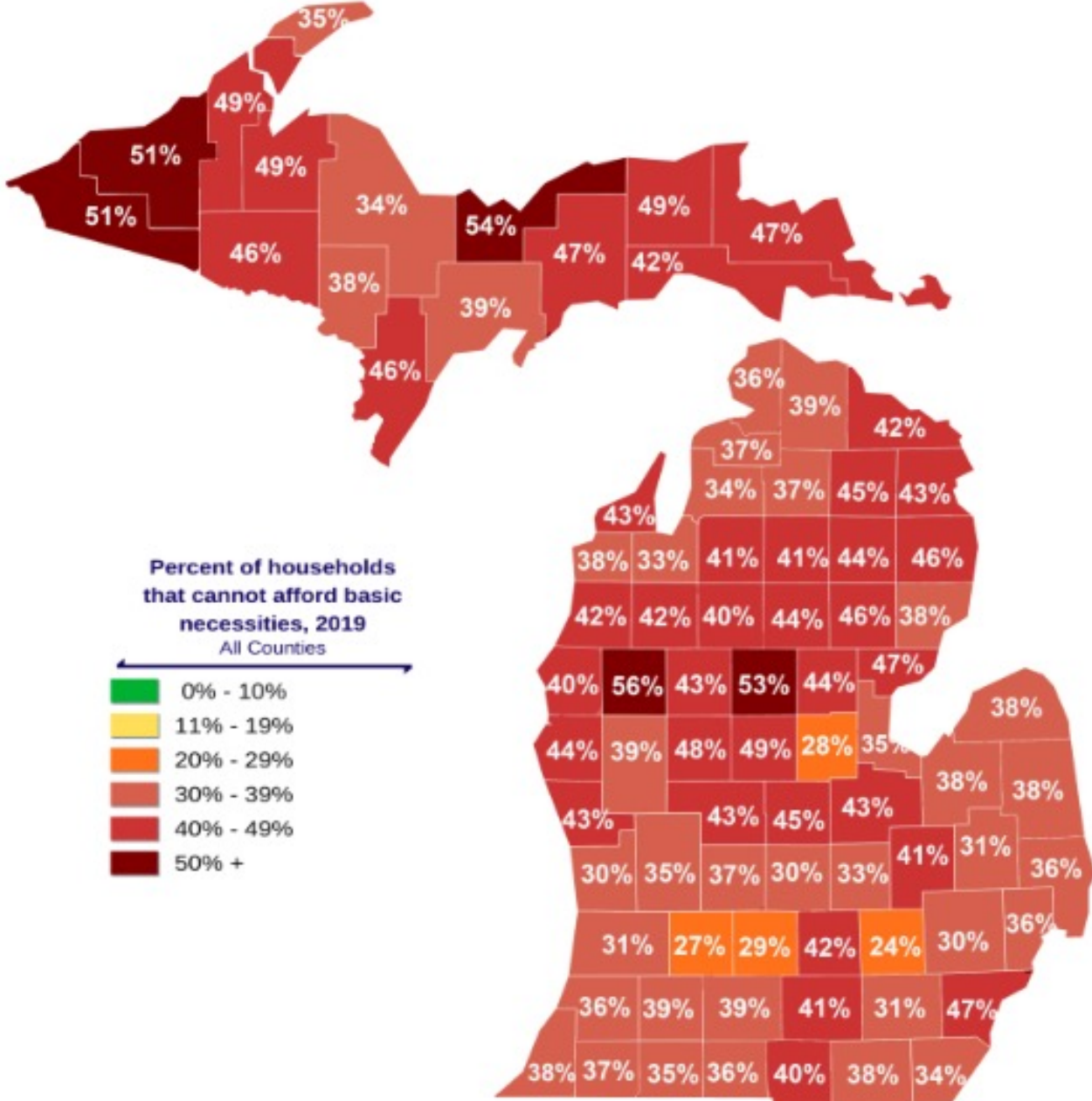
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Source: United Way ALICE in Michigan: A Financial Hardship Study, 2021 Update



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# Michigan's Struggling Households, by County



Source: United Way ALICE in Michigan: A Financial Hardship Study, 2021 Update  
Map by Michigan Future Inc.

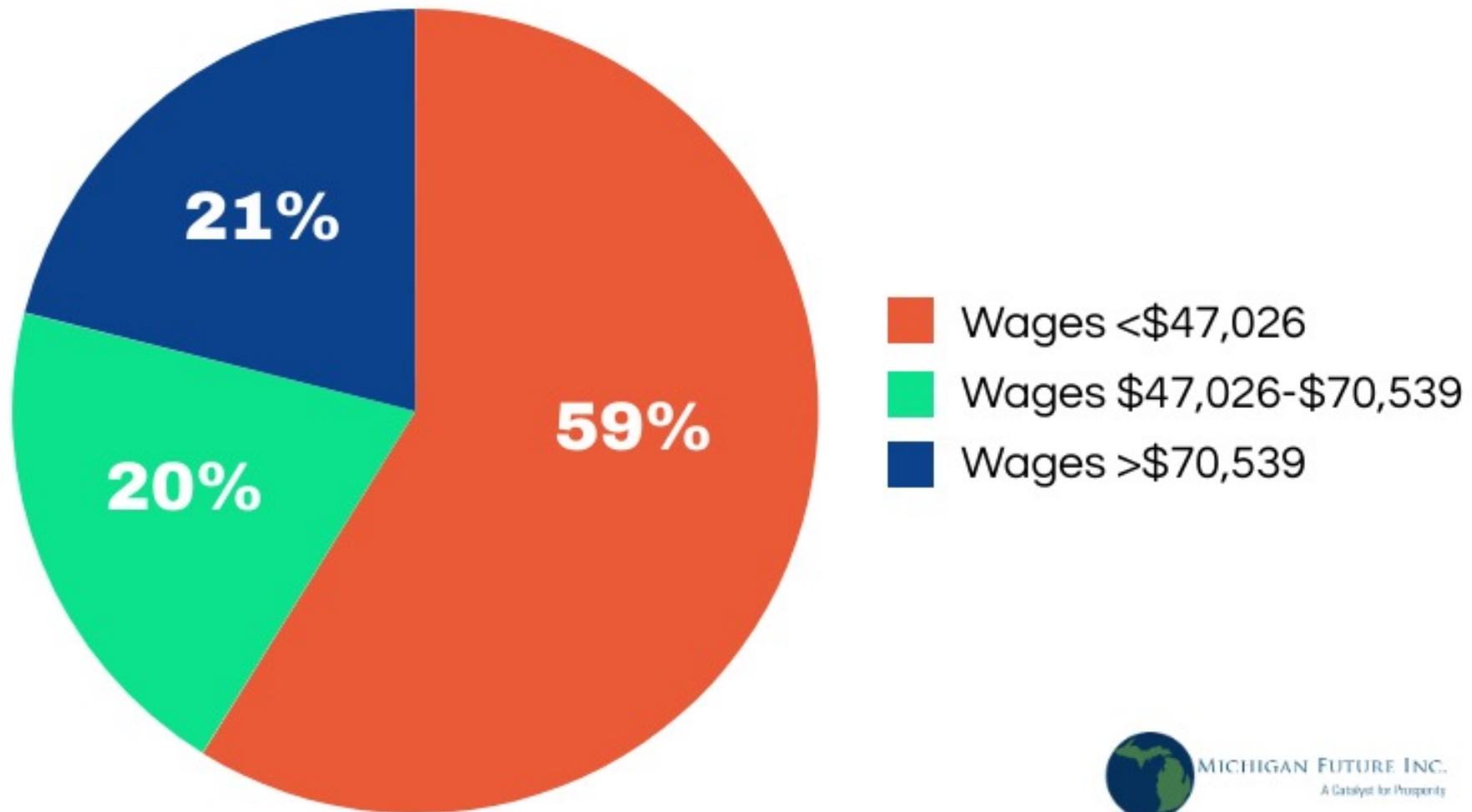


**1.5 million Michigan families were struggling in a "good" economy**



# Michigan payroll jobs in three categories: below middle class, lower middle class, and upper middle class and above

4.3 Million Payroll Jobs

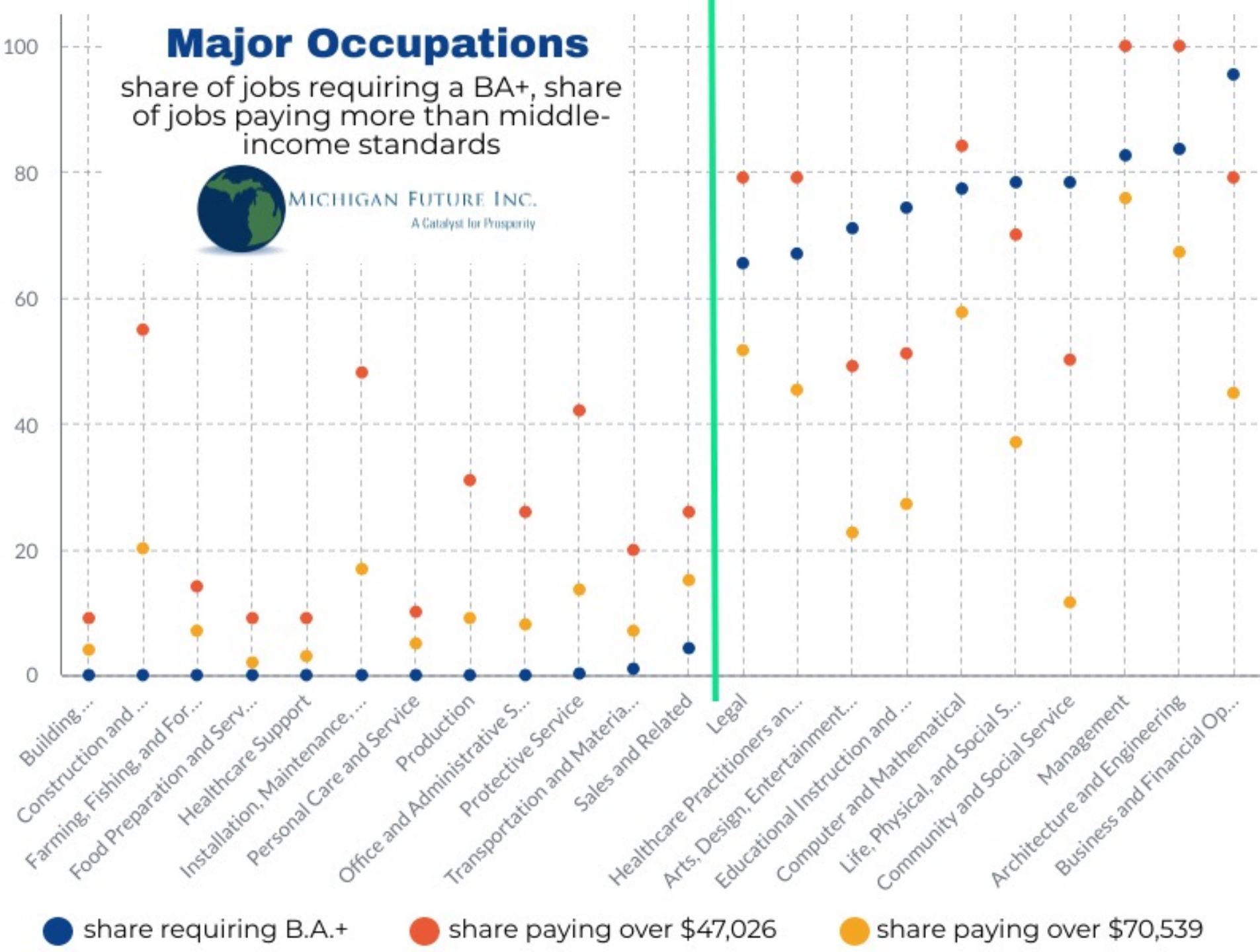


# Major Occupations

share of jobs requiring a BA+, share of jobs paying more than middle-income standards



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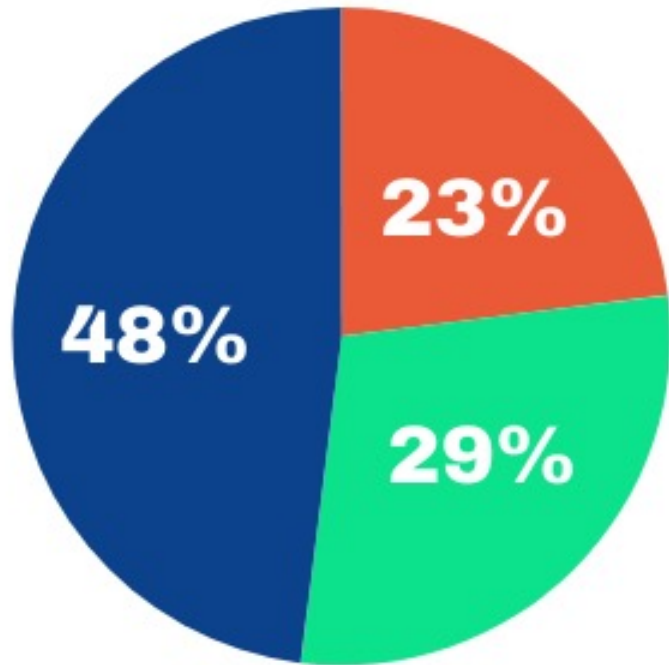
● share requiring B.A.+

● share paying over \$47,026

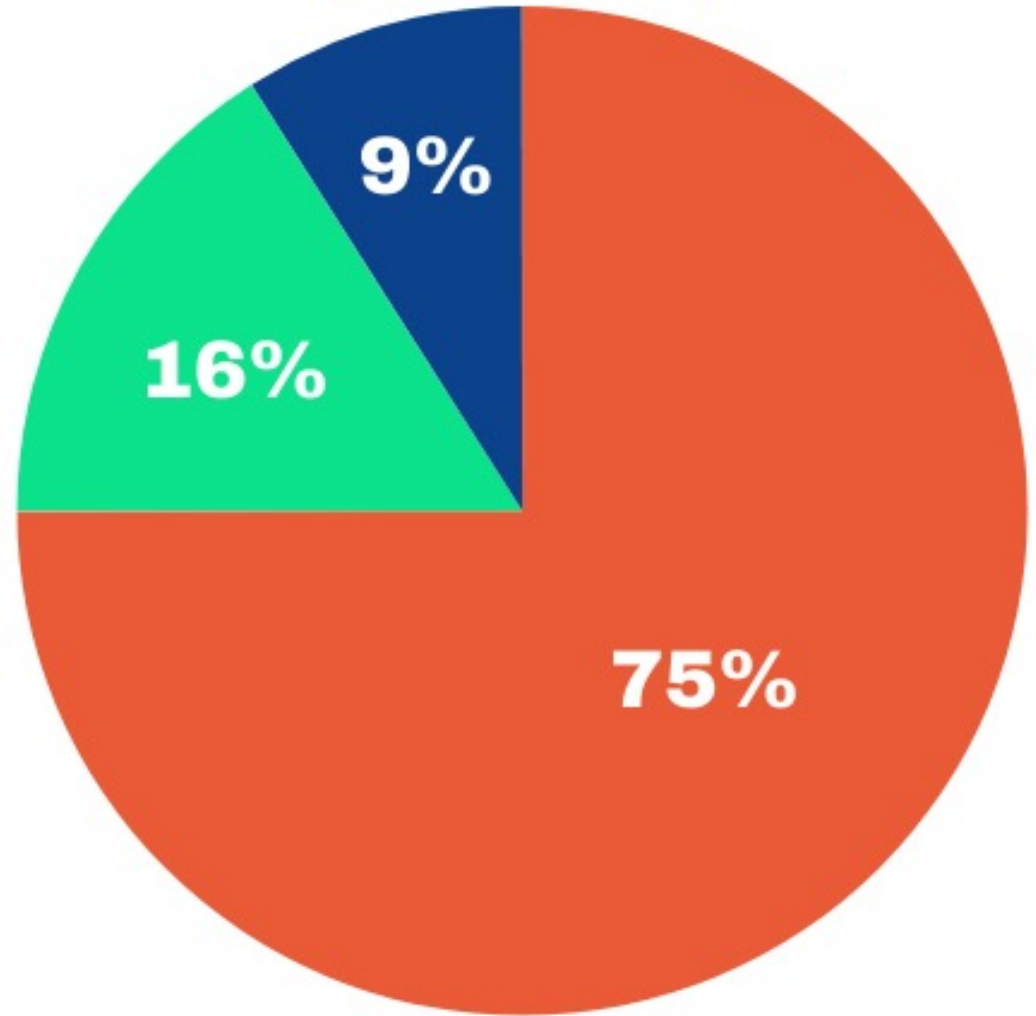
● share paying over \$70,539

# All Payroll Jobs

in occupations largely  
requiring a B.A.  
(1.36m jobs)



in occupations largely  
**NOT** requiring a B.A.  
(2.98m jobs)



Wages <\$47,026    Wages \$47,026-\$70,539    Wages >\$70,539



# In Largest Occupations, Below-Middle Class Wages Dominate



Office and  
admin. support

**544K jobs**

**74%**



Production

**476K jobs**

**69%**



Sales and  
related

**410K jobs**

**74%**



Food prep and  
serving

**394K jobs**

**91%**




Transportation  
and materials  
moving


**356K jobs**

**80%**



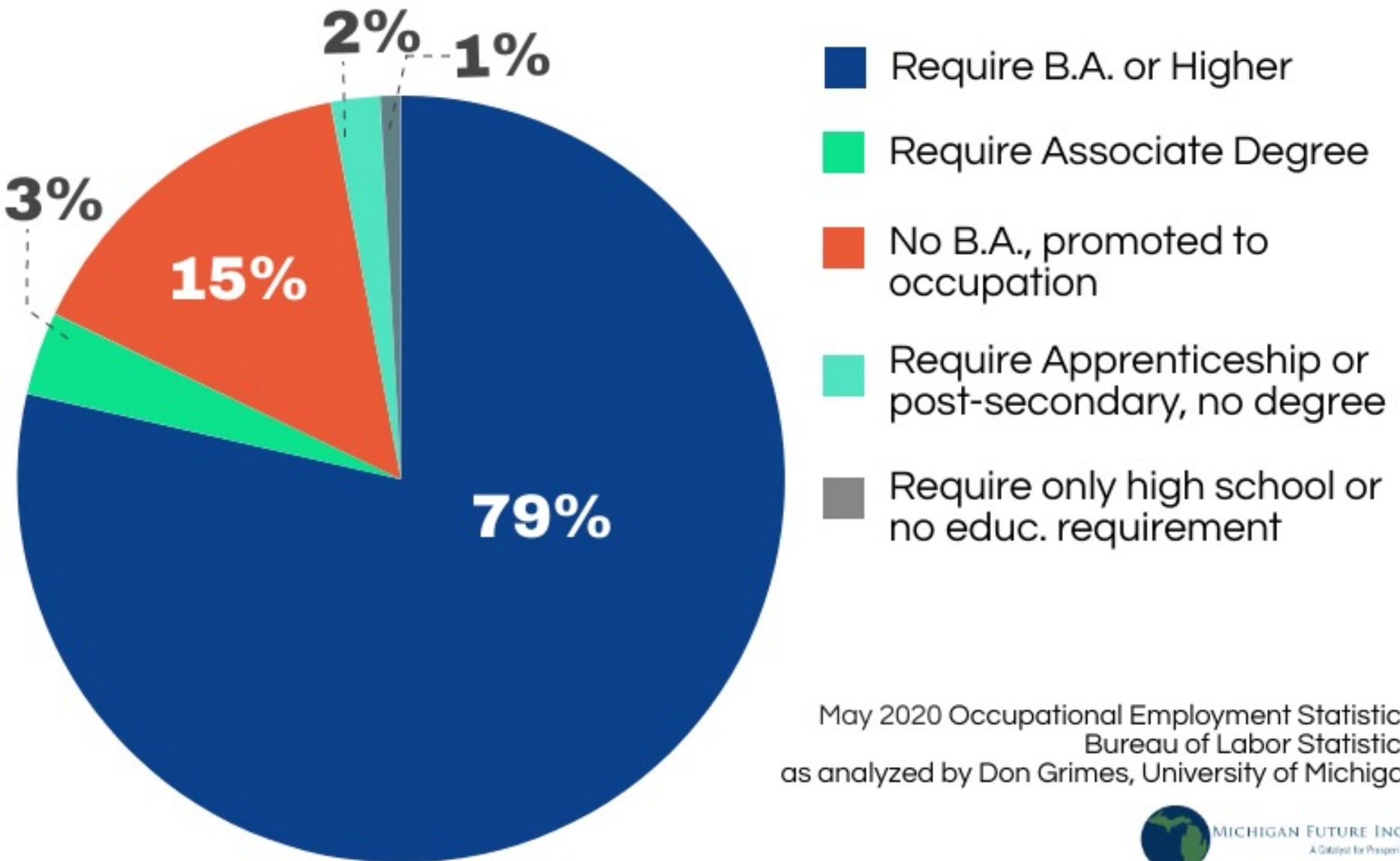
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 Wages <\$47,026

 Wages >\$47,026



# HIGHER-PAYING JOBS (WAGES >\$64,240)



# **A Two-Tier Labor Market = A Two-Tier Economy**

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# Our Primary Economic Challenges



Too many low-paid jobs.



Too few with the education attainment to get better-paying jobs.



Too low talent concentrations to attract high-wage employers.



**We need to change the definition of economic success from a low unemployment rate to rising income for all.**

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High-impact policy lever #1:

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**Increase income and health coverage for today's low-wage workers through an expanded and no red tape safety net.**



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High-impact policy lever #2:

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**Prepare all Michigan children for good-paying forty-year careers by making the 6Cs the foundational skills for all students from birth through college.**



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High-impact policy lever #3:

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**In addition to current education funding, provide an annual grant for all children in households unable to pay for the basics from birth through college.**



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High-impact policy lever #4:

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**Create more high-paid jobs by creating places where people want to live and work.**



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Read more and borrow our data:

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**[www.michiganfuture.org](http://www.michiganfuture.org)**



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