

# The Industrial Middle of Portland's Changing Income Distribution



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- 1. The tightening middle-wage economy
- **2.** Equity roles of industrial jobs
- 3. Local directions for middle-wage prosperity





## The tightening middle-wage economy



Source: Oregon Office of Economic Analysis



# Job polarization: A long-term national trend

Job Growth by Wage Group (1980 - 2010)



Source: Oregon Office of Economic Analysis



# Increasing job polarization



Source: Oregon Office of Economic Analysis





#### Wage distribution by occupations and education



Source: Oregon Office of Economic Analysis



1. Tightening middle-wage economy



Citywide Wage Thresholds		
Low	< \$26,400/year	
Lower Middle	\$26,400 - \$46,400	
Upper Middle	\$46,400 - \$67,600	
High	> \$67,647/year	

### Wage distribution of employment land types

Wage Quartile Comparison of Portland Employment Geographies, 2012





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1. Tightening middle-wage economy



Citywide Wage Thresholds		0.1
Low	< \$26,400/year	
Lower Middle	\$26,400 - \$46,400	0.05
Upper Middle	\$46,400 - \$67,600	0
High	> \$67,647/year	

### Wage distribution of employment land types



Wage Quartile Comparison of Portland Employment Geographies, 2012





# Cities vary in income distribution

City types based on their share of households by income level (Brookings Institution)



Low Lower-Middle Middle Upper-Middle High

New York, Chicago / slow growth

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Low Lower-Middle Middle Upper-Middle High



New Orleans, Detroit / transition

San Francisco.

Atlanta /

disparities

#### Middle class Portland is changing







#### Income disparities by race (Median household income, Portland, 2010)







#### Occupational disparities by race (Multnomah County, 2008)



Source: Coalition of Communities of Color in Multnomah County





### Where East Portland residents work



Source: BPS from LEHD data





### Where Columbia Corridor workers live



#### Source: BPS from LEHD data





#### **Columbia Corridor Association Employment Shed**

52,400 Jobs in the Columbia 25,000 **Corridor Association Boundaries** 20,000 39% of workers live within 5 miles 15,000 of their workplace. 55% of workers live further than 10 10,000 miles from their workplace 5,000 Where CCA Workers Live 0 5 Miles or less 5 to 10 Miles Portland 18,187 Unincorporated Clark 18,501 County Gresham Vancouver 5.445 4,939 Other 5,363 Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

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#### **Commute Distance of Columbia Corridor Employees**

2. Equity roles of industrial jobs

**Over 10 Miles** 

# Affordable neighborhoods for middle-wage workers



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# Industrial land supply gap for middle-wage job growth





3. Local directions for middle-wage job growth

# Freight infrastructure and middle-wage job growth

Columbia Multimodal Corridor project recommendations



- The Corridor Boundary Area

Project Location (Intersection/Interchange)
Project Location (Corridor)





3. Local directions for middle-wage job growth

#### Transit access to middle/high-wage jobs





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3. Local directions for middle-wage job growth

#### Portland's role as a regional job center







# Takeaways

- Portland is a middle-class city with a balanced economy, but the share of middle-wage jobs is getting smaller.
- Middle-wage jobs that don't require college degrees are concentrated in industrial districts.
- Communities of color and East Portlanders rely disproportionately on industrial district jobs.
- The Comprehensive Plan Update is an opportunity to better align land use, transportation, and education with middle-wage job growth potential.



