Data from our Workforce 2020 research program show a correlation between above-average profit margin and revenue growth and workforce development. Companies with above-average profit margin and revenue growth (high performers) are better prepared for the future workforce than those with below-average growth. Executives who report that their companies have below-average profit margin growth over the past two years (we call them underperformers) indicate that they are struggling to keep up with changing workforce trends. This is especially true when it comes to recruiting employees with both base-level and advanced skills. Perhaps most telling, underperforming companies are significantly less likely to say that HR issues are driving strategy at the board level—which could be a major oversight.

This fact sheet outlines the major differences between high performers and underperformers in the public sector. Both face unique challenges and opportunities when preparing for the workforce of the future.

**The New Face of Work**

*Research shows priorities shifting as economies rebound globally, but companies lag in understanding these changing dynamics.*

- 69% of executives at high-revenue-growth companies say workforce issues are already driving strategy at the board level. That number is slightly lower for underperformers—54%—but falls to just 28% in three years.
- Companies with below-average revenue growth are significantly more likely to say they have a strong vision for the workforce they want to build in three years (41% vs. 26% of high performers).
- High-revenue-growth companies are significantly more likely to say they have ample budget and resources toward developing talent (56% vs. 28% of underperformers).
- Below-average-profit-margin-growth companies are significantly more likely to say increasing numbers of Millennials are having an impact on their workforce strategies (45% vs. 32% of high performers).

**Executives say...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High-profit-margin-growth companies</th>
<th>Underperformers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>...my company has an execution plan for achieving its vision of workforce management</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...workforce issues drive strategy at the board level</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Leadership Cliff**

*Executives and employees agree that leadership is lacking—and companies are not focused enough on developing future leaders.*

- Despite outstripping their underperforming counterparts in some areas (see left), executives at high-revenue-growth companies are significantly more likely to say a lack of leadership is a major impediment to achieving their workforce goals (31% vs. 18% underperformers).
- Companies with below-average revenue growth are significantly more likely to say their leaders have the skills to manage talent (48% vs. 35% high performers).
Workforce 2020—High performers

Bridging the Skills Gap—The Learning Mandate
Better training and education opportunities would benefit employees and businesses alike.

- 57% of public sector companies with above-average revenue growth say that the changing nature of employment requires an increased investment in training (vs. 41% of underperformers).
- High-revenue-growth companies are significantly more likely to say they have ample budget and resources to develop talent (56% vs. 28% underperformers).
- More than a quarter of companies with below-average profit margin growth say problems with talent and skills affect business performance (vs. 18% of high performers).

Survey demographics: High performers

- High-revenue-growth executive titles: CEOs (0%); COOs (7%); CFOs (6%); CIOs (9%); CMOs (4%); Chief Human Resources Officers (13%); VPs/Directors of HR (26%); VPs of Learning/Development (4%); VPs Compensation & Benefits (15%); VPs Recruiting or Talent (17%)

Executives say these technology skills are well represented at their organization:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology Skills</th>
<th>High-revenue-growth companies</th>
<th>Underperforming companies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital media</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About the research

Workforce 2020 is a large-scale global study to discover best practices and actual progress toward the creation of talent strategies for the future in the global economy. We surveyed more than 2,700 executives and 2,700 employees, and interviewed 28 executives across the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UAE, UK, US. Survey respondents came from a variety of industries, company sizes, and age groups (49% of employee respondents are Millennials).