This map displays the percentage of desirable jobs within local geographical areas. Desirable jobs are defined as occupations falling into Jobs Zones 3 through 5, as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This type of work typically requires some substantial education or formal training beyond a high school diploma. The insets to the right of the national map relate local labor market conditions to the graduation rates of the public school systems for three of the nation's largest metropolitan areas. The national map captures over 2,000 local geographies known as Personal Use Micro Data Sample Areas, or PUMAs. Defined by the U.S. Census Bureau based on the 2000 decennial Census, each PUMA contains a population of about 100,000.

Note: The map uses quintiles to define categories for the local concentration of jobs in Zones 3-5. The upper boundaries of the five quintile categories are respectively 39, 46, 50, 54, and 79 percent.

Source: EPE Research Center analysis of civilian labor force data from the 2005 American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau), occupational characteristics from O*NET (Bureau of Labor Statistics), and high school graduation rates calculated using the Common Core of Data (U.S. Department of Education).