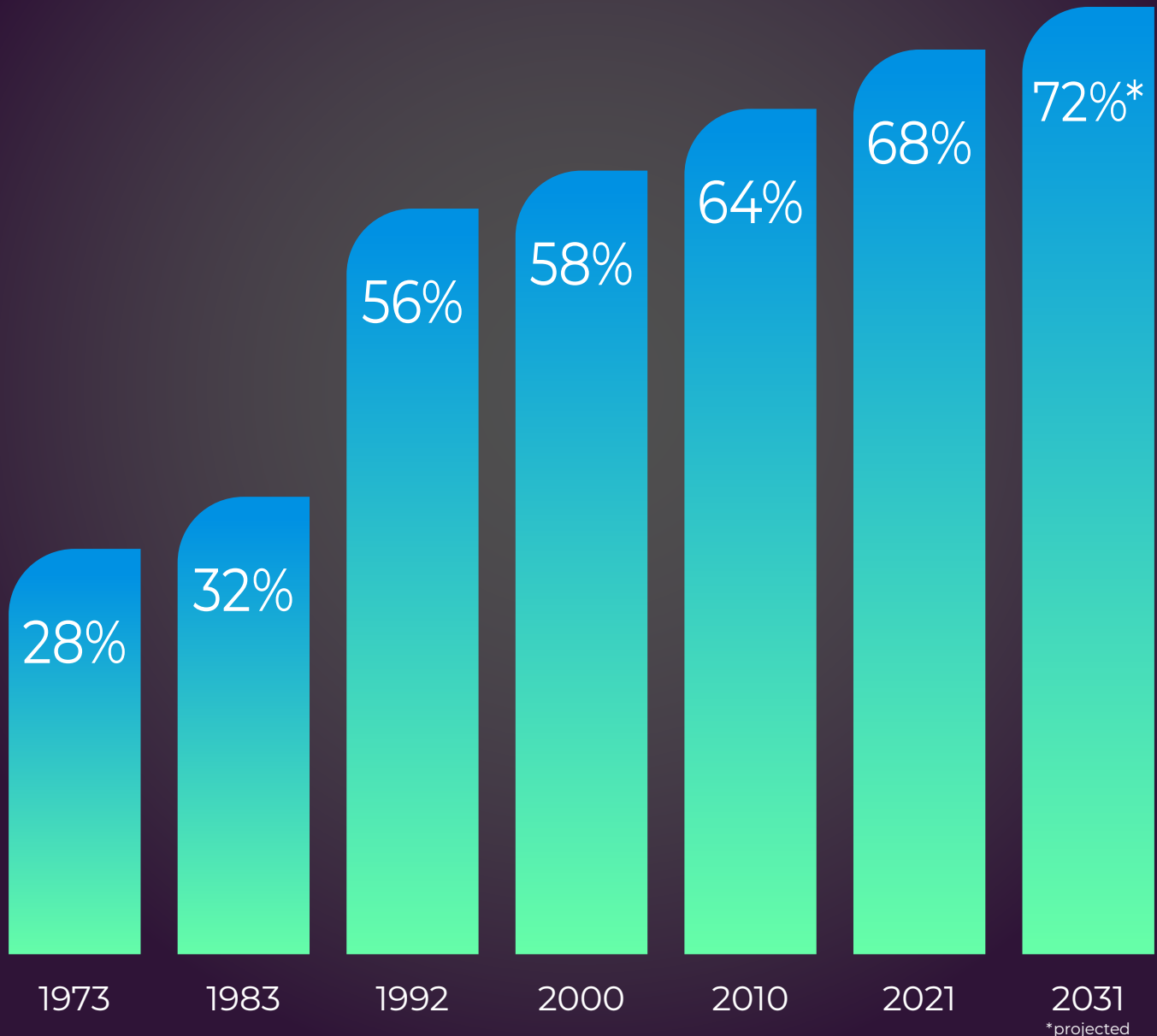


More Jobs Require Education After High School



Community Colleges Build Pipelines to Local Industries

The demand for education beyond high school is increasing rapidly. U.S. employers now need a steadily growing number of people with the specialized knowledge high school doesn't provide. **An estimated 70 percent of jobs will require a college degree, vocational training, or a technical certification by 2031. That number was 28 percent in 1973.**

As technology evolves, **U.S. employers face a significant skills gap** – the difference between the skills and knowledge needed for open positions versus what job seekers offer. By 2030, the U.S. is projected to have **a shortage of 6.5 million skilled workers** because industries can't find employees with the necessary education and training. This is especially true in sectors like healthcare, IT, manufacturing, and skilled trades, where **employees need advanced technical, analytical, and problem-solving skills.**

Approximately **80% of community colleges partner with local industries** to offer career-focused programs providing education and training for **in-demand jobs**. These **collaborations boost local economies** by meeting workforce needs. Laredo College prepares students for over 30 vocational fields, awarding degrees and certifications that align with local and regional employers' demands.