



Reports Look at Troubled Job Market

Of the 144 million jobs in the US, nearly one in three pays low wages and often does not include affordable health insurance, paid sick days, or retirement coverage, according to a new report by The Mobility Agenda, a virtual think tank affiliated with the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

The report also finds these \$11.11-an-hour-or-less jobs tend to have inflexible or unpredictable scheduling requirements and provide little opportunity for career advancement. Furthermore, since 2001 there has been a sharp decline in wages for workers at the bottom third of the wage scale.

Reviewing the evidence on economic mobility, the authors of the report, called "Understanding Low-Wage Work in the United States," conclude that, "In the US labor market it is not possible for everyone to be middle class, no matter how hard they work."

Even families in the middle class are having trouble making ends meet these days, and one of the culprits is the cost of healthcare, reports The New York Times, citing research by the Employee Benefit Research Institute.