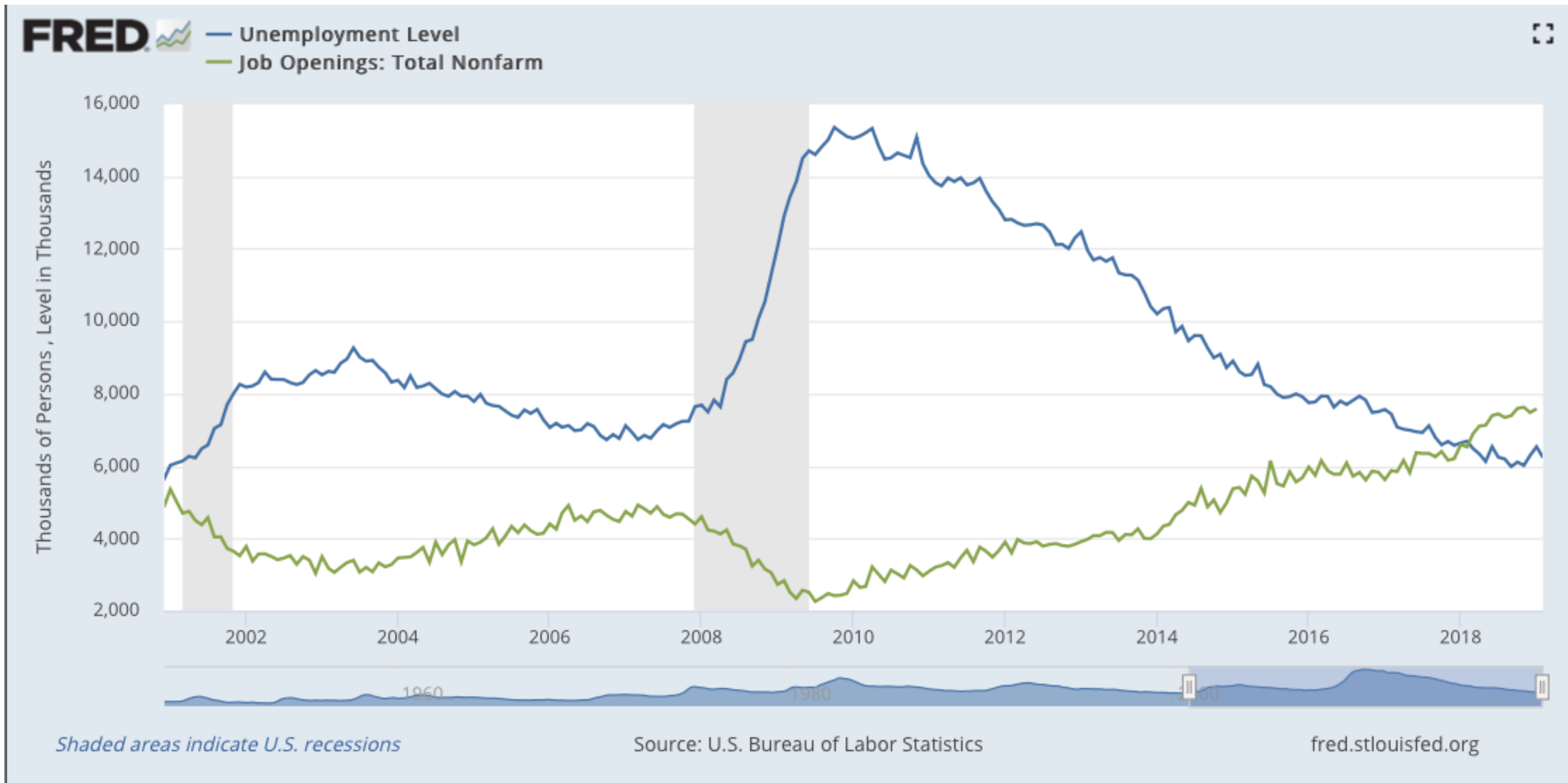


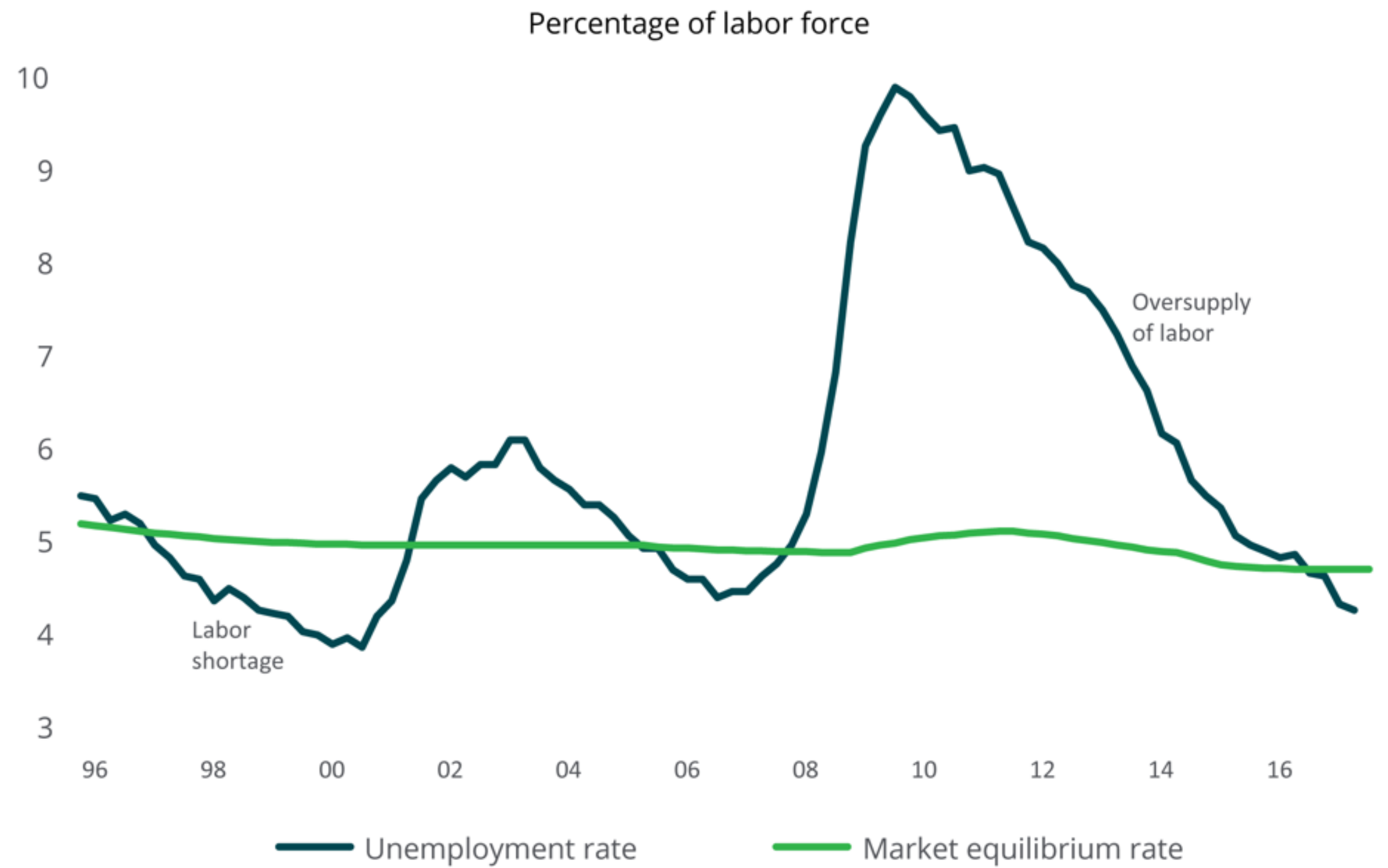
# STEM AND THE SKILLED LABOR SHORTAGE IN THE UNITED STATES

HYPOTHESIS: Many high schools in the U.S. are employing rigorous training programs to grant students an advantage in entering the STEM workforce. Employing similar programs and destigmatizing a blue-collar career (especially when juxtaposed with a white-collar one) is a formidable solution to the skilled labor shortage in the U.S.



ABSTRACT: There is a *growing* shortage of skilled labor in the United States. As the baby boomer generation prepares to leave the workforce, this problem is getting exponentially worse. Many high schools have abandoned vocational classes like Auto shop, Woodshop, and Home Economics to accommodate their reduced budgets. Furthermore, as high schools ramp up their Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics programs, more young adults are pursuing higher education and entering the STEM workforce. Using quantitative and qualitative data, this paper provides an explanation as to why a logical method to assuage this labor shortage is to employ vocational programs that prepare young adults to enter the trades in a similar to how STEM programs are used to prepare students to succeed in college.

Figure 2. Unemployment rate and labor market equilibrium rate



Source: CBO, BLS/Haver Analytics.

Deloitte Insights | deloitte.com/insights

NICOLO TESTUO HOSHIZAKI