

2014

 **THE LMI TEAM**
*Office of Workforce Information and Performance
Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning*



**WORKFORCE
INFORMATION
GRANT ANNUAL
PERFORMANCE
REPORT**

**PROGRAM YEAR 2014 (July
1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)**

PREPARED BY:

*Office of Workforce Information and Performance Division of
Workforce Development and Adult Learning Maryland Department
of Labor, Licensing and Regulation*

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Kelly M. Schulz
Secretary

James Rzepkowski
Assistant Secretary

FOREWORD

Every year, Maryland receives the Workforce Information Grant (WIG) awarded to states' workforce agencies from the U.S. Department of Labor. The grant, which is obligated to the Office of Workforce Information and Performance (OWIP), Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), is indeed essential for the collection, analyses, and dissemination of critical labor market data for the state of Maryland.

In Maryland, OWIP uses the WIG funds to strengthen the state's workforce investment system by forming partnerships with stakeholders and customers that include, but are not limited to, job seekers, employers, state agencies, local workforce investment boards, policymakers, and research institutions. Through the WIG funds, OWIP develops and circulates labor market data and workforce information products. Additionally, OWIP generates analyses and related resources that help our stakeholders and customers understand, engage, participate and utilize labor market data and workforce information at varying levels. OWIP's continuous contribution of labor market information plays an important role in shaping Maryland's workforce development policies.

This Program Year's (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015) WIG Annual Report details OWIP's valuable contribution and assistance to Maryland's stakeholders and customers. More specifically, OWIP assisted end users with understanding the state's labor market and workforce challenges. Through the effective development, delivery, and dissemination of crucial labor market products, as well as by responding to requests for information, OWIP was able to increase the accessibility of the data to better meet customers' needs.



James E. Rzepkowski
 Assistant Secretary
 Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning
 Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
 1100 N Eutaw Street, Room 108
 Baltimore, MD 21201
 Phone: 410-767-2924



Michael "Mike" DiGiacomo
 Executive Director
 Governor's Workforce Investment Board
 1100 N Eutaw Street, Room 616
 Baltimore, MD 21201
 Phone: 410-767-2131

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I. OVERVIEW: MARYLAND'S LABOR MARKET AND WORKFORCE INFORMATION STRATEGY

Mission

OWIP's mission is to collect, analyze, and produce labor market and workforce information as a service to businesses, job seekers, students, workforce and economic development programs and their community of service providers in Maryland. Our primary function is to make workforce and economic data and analyses easily accessible for informed decisions, from individual choices to workforce and economic policy directions.

Guiding Principles

- Partner with the workforce and economic development community
- Develop and deploy new information solution tools and systems for the workforce and economic development community
- Provide products and services that are customer and demand driven
- Be known as an important and reliable source for information solutions that support workforce development goals and outcomes

In Program Year (PY) 2014, the Office of Workforce Information and Performance (OWIP) part of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) strengthened, as well as expanded, its statewide partnerships. This collaboration involved relevant state agencies, public institutions, and local workforce investment groups to advance existing workforce initiatives and foster new efforts. OWIP supported the goal to advance and foster workforce initiatives by providing data and analyses to inform strategic planning, program implementation, and evaluation of workforce development efforts. OWIP provided labor market data, information, and resources to a variety of stakeholders and customers in Maryland during PY 2014. These end users utilized the information provided to assist them in making informed decisions, forming policies, and conducting relevant research. Ultimately, the aim was to empower stakeholders to become informed about the labor market conditions in Maryland. This impacted an array of decisions, including but not limited to policies, services, training, and hiring.

OWIP assessed the effectiveness of its policies and procedures to ensure timely and accurate dissemination of labor market information (LMI). In light of OWIP's assessment of its past products, information dissemination processes, and feedback pertaining to prior outreach efforts, the office was able to implement changes to better provide labor market data, workforce information, and resources. This information was made available via a variety of mediums to relevant stakeholders, including; job seekers, employers, businesses, researchers, educational/training institutions, students, and the general public.

II. WORKFORCE INFORMATION DATABASE (WIDb)

The Workforce Information Database (WIDb) is a data storage system used as a source to populate and access labor market data, workforce information, and related reports. This includes, but is not limited to, various labor force trends and employment situation reports that are populated through the WIDb on the state's Maryland Workforce Exchange Virtual One-Stop (MWE-VOS) web-based system at: <https://mwejobs.maryland.gov>.

Researchers, policy makers, and other groups use the system to gain access to “historical” and “real-time” labor force data and workforce trends. School counselors provide career counseling to students by interpreting the data housed in the WIDb, such as income, wages, educational completers, and employment levels to provide perspective when reviewing candidates, resumes, qualifications, and skills. Employment specialists can assist job seekers find the data on the WIDb as well. Therefore, keeping the data in the WIDb up-to-date is a key function of OWIP.

In view of the immeasurable value of labor market data and workforce information to the state's workforce system, stakeholders, and customers, OWIP practices the following measures to ensure the WIDb includes up to date state and substate labor market data and workforce information:

- Developed and populated all designated WIDb core tables on a continuous basis throughout PY 2014. Labor market data and workforce information were updated on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis. These data updates include labor market data, workforce information, and related labor economic products and resources.
- Data uploaded to the WIDb are integrated into the MWE-VOS. The data files, which include: Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Current Employment Statistics (CES), Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) statistics, Occupation Employment (and wages) Statistics OES), industry and occupational projections (both short and long-term) for state and substate areas, and educational program and completer data were and will continue to be uploaded into the MWE-VOS system.
- The WIDb structure operates in conjunction with the Virtual Labor Market Information (VLMI) and Virtual One-Stop (VOS) system. As of March 2013, the WIDb operates in version 2.5, and in accordance with the DOL ETA timeline, will be upgraded to version 2.6 by June 30, 2016.

III. INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

Industry and occupational projections were prepared for Maryland. Projection staff completed statewide short-term industry and occupational projections with 2014 as the base year and 2016 as the projected year. Additionally, long-term industry and occupational projections were produced for all 12 Workforce Regions and Maryland with the calendar year 2012 as the base year and 2022 as the projected year. Both the short-and long-term projections were developed according to the methodology, software tools, and guidelines developed by the Projections Consortium and the Projections Managing Partnership (PC & PMP). The short-term employment projections were submitted to the PC & PMP for review in January 2015 and the long-term projections were submitted for review in June 2015. As required, the short and long-term projection estimates were included in the Workforce Information Database (WIDb), and were made available to the public through the state’s Department of Labor, Industry and Licensing’s website at: <http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/lmi/> and via the Maryland Workforce Exchange (MWE) Virtual One-Stop System (VOS) website at: <https://mwejobs.maryland.gov>.

Product	URL
Short-term Statewide Occupational Projections	http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/lmi/iandoprojshort/
Short-term Statewide Industry Projections	http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/lmi/iandoprojshort/industryshort.shtml
Long-term State-wide Occupational Projections	http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/lmi/iandoproj/maryland.shtml
Long-term State-wide Industry Projections	http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/lmi/iandoproj/industry.shtml
Workforce Region Occupational Projections	http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/lmi/iandoproj/wias.shtml
Workforce Region Industry Projections	http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/lmi/iandoproj/wiasindustry.shtml

These projections provide information on industry and occupational trends to Maryland’s employers, job seekers, students, researchers, policymakers, and others. Moreover, these projections are instrumental in helping existing and new businesses make investments and hiring decisions, guiding students in career decision-making, and in assisting other individuals in the labor market. In particular, the projections continue to benefit those entering the job market, changing careers, or deciding on training choices. These projections are also widely used by policymakers and workforce professionals in planning educational and training programs. In addition, career counselors continue to utilize the projections in providing career guidance. Researchers and economic development offices also use projections to analyze economic trends and labor market conditions.

Maryland: Industry Projections - 2014-2016

All Industries	Employment			Percent Change
	2014	2016	Change	
	2,715,932	2,756,477	40,545	1.5%

Table 1: Short-term industry projections; <http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/lmi/iandoprojshort/industryshort.shtml>

Maryland: Industry Projections - 2012-2022

All Industries	Employment			Percent Change
	2012	2022	Change	
	3,094,874	3,284,239	189,365	6.12%

Table 2: Long-term industry projections; <http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/lmi/iandoproj/industry.shtml>

The statewide short-term and long-term industry projections estimate a total of 40,545 and 189,365 new jobs respectively (Tables 1 & 2). Industries expected to exhibit the most gains long-term (2012-2022) include, but are not limited to: Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (42,555), Healthcare and Social Assistance (32,995), Educational Services (23,718), Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (18,712), Accommodation and Food Services (18,413), and Retail Trade (12,701).

Maryland: Occupational Projections - 2014-2016

All Occupations	Employment			Openings	
	2014	2016	Change	Replacement	Total
	2,715,932	2,756,477	40,545	127,546	176,779

Table 3: Short-term occupational projections; <http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/lmi/iandoprojshort/>

Maryland: Occupational Projections - 2012-2022

All Occupations	Employment			Openings	
	2012	2022	Change	Replacement	Total
	2,740,196	2,919,510	179,314	637,252	832,711

Table 4: Long-term occupational projections; <http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/lmi/iandoproj/maryland.shtml>

The statewide short-term and long-term occupational projections illustrate a total of 176,779 and 832,711 job openings respectively (Tables 3 & 4). These projections are a reflection of growth stemming from expanded employment opportunities in the occupations as well as replacement needs over the next two and ten years.

Along with Maryland occupational and industry projections, workforce region projections (occupational and industry) are produced for base year 2012 and projected year 2022. The occupational projections by workforce region, illustrates growth (extra jobs) in employment and combines replacement employment (extra jobs due to retirement, death, etc.) to produce the total employment. Data indicates a significant number of occupations with growth requiring a moderate or higher level of education or training. Based on the projections, a large number of occupations estimated to grow over the next two to ten years continue to be in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) as well as the Service-Providing fields (e.g., customer service, transportation and warehousing). Occupations related to health care, computers, business, education, and management are projected to be the primary fields exhibiting growth. Similar to past projections, these occupations have a common theme: they are all high skilled occupations that typically require a college education or advanced training. Equipped with this information, workforce development efforts can be steered to target these occupations.

IV. ANNUAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND OTHER REPORTS

In PY 2014, OWIP produced and published labor analyses, workforce information reports, and additional resources. These informative tools provide state and substate labor market data. OWIP produced nine internal and external facing reports on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. The publically available reports are housed on our website at: <https://mwejobs.maryland.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=413>.

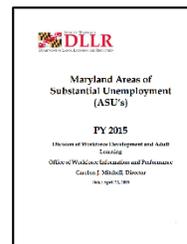
- **Hot Jobs Pamphlet** – provides data on occupations with above average wages and projected to experience growth. The occupations are stratified by education level (https://mwejobs.maryland.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/HotJobs_Brochure.pdf).



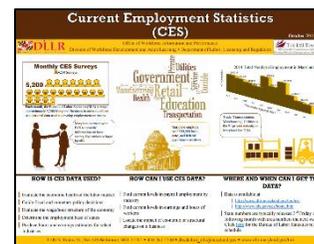
- **Labor Market Information Cheat Sheet** – Everything LMI in one document. It provides descriptions and uses of our most sought after information. The cheat sheet offers links to websites where to find more LMI information (<https://mwejobs.maryland.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/updatedcheatsheet-Aj.pdf>).

THE LMI TEAM Office of Workforce Information and Performance Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning		Labor Market Information	
Resource	Description	Uses	Website
Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW)	Data provides the number of firms, monthly jobs, and total wages paid in Maryland and broken down by county. Includes: QCEW for the QCEW and its counties based on place of work.	-Identify top-paying industries by county, SIC, or county -Offers ability to compare information within and between specific areas -Provides historic data for industry trends for growth or decline by employment	National www.bls.gov Maryland http://mwejobs.maryland.gov/qcew/
Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Survey	Data provides occupational employment estimates of the number of people employed in over 800 occupations in the U.S. and is reported in the respective state. Data follows during the 3rd quarter of each year.	-Analysis of employment by occupation and state -Compare occupational wages across areas and time -Identify occupations across occupations -Search in determining why wages for different occupations in different regions	National www.bls.gov Maryland http://mwejobs.maryland.gov/oes/
Current Employment Statistics (CES) Survey	Data provides total industry employment figures, from payroll, job, average weekly hours, and average hourly earnings and average weekly earnings for each month. Data follows 2-3 weeks after each month ends.	-Includes the health of the economy's employment -Includes employment, average weekly hours, and average hourly earnings -Search for trends in demand -Search for trends in demand	National www.bls.gov Maryland http://mwejobs.maryland.gov/ces/
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)	Monthly and annual estimates of employment, unemployment, & labor force data for Census regions and divisions, states, counties, metropolitan areas, and cities above 25,000 by place of residence.	-Search with allocation of assistance to regions or regions -Planning and budgetary resources -Determines the need for employment and training services -Search local labor market developments	National www.bls.gov Maryland http://mwejobs.maryland.gov/laus/

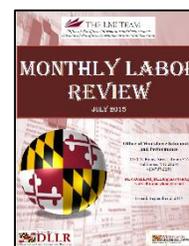
- Areas of Substantial Unemployment (ASU) Report – provides information on critical unemployment areas and is used as an important factor in the distribution of select WIA Title 1 funds (Chapter four and five) (https://mwejobs.maryland.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/ASU_PY15-AnnualReport.pdf).



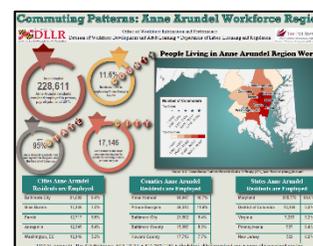
- Program Information Sheets – A simple graphical explanation of OWIP’s four major programs; CES, LAUS, QCEW, and OES. ([CES Information Sheet](#); [LAUS Information Sheet](#) [QCEW Information Sheet](#); [OES Information Sheet](#))



- Monthly Labor Review – provides details and analysis on the state’s employment situation based on current and historical labor market data and workforce information. This monthly report publishes on the MWE-VOS and DLLR’s websites; and is also emailed to stakeholders and customers, including all level of staff members within Maryland’s Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation as well as the various others (<http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/lmi/mlr/>).



- Commuting Patterns – An infographic document detailing the commuting patterns of Maryland, and its 12 workforce regions, stratified by residence (<http://www.dllr.maryland.gov/lmi/wiocommuting/>)



Spotlight on Internal Reports

- Unemployment and Employment Snapshot - provides monthly employment and unemployment analysis comparing Maryland to the other 50 states and the District of Columbia. The primary function is to present a broader perspective of Maryland’s job creation as compared to other states. The Snapshot is distributed to the Labor Secretary and associated workforce staff as well as those in the Governor’s office.
- State Rankings Report – Along with the Unemployment and Employment Snapshot, this internal report spotlights how the 50 states and the District of Columbia rank in terms of employment and unemployment. This report ranks month to month and year to year between all states and districts. The state rankings report is only intended for policy and legislative staff of the Executive branch.
- Monthly Labor Review dashboard – this dashboard created using dataZoa, is used internally as a template to create tables and graphs used in the Monthly Labor Review publication. Only OWIP staff has access as the tables are formatted specifically for use creating the Monthly Labor Review.

V. CUSTOMER CONSULTATIONS

OWIP prioritizes and continues to value consultations with stakeholders and customers in the state’s workforce system. Through consultations and guidance, staff gained knowledge and understanding of the state’s data users’ needs and interests.

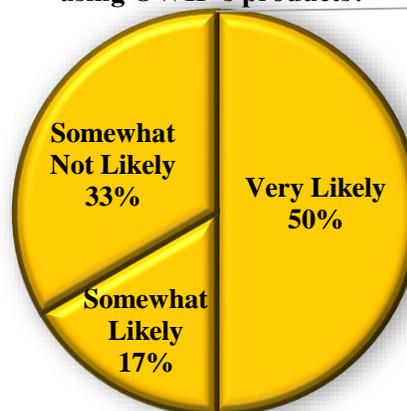
In Program Year 2014, OWIP consulted with the Lower Shore representatives, including local business service representatives from state and county agencies as well as our local WIA partners, to provide information on the types of Labor Market Information (LMI) data and products currently available, and to receive feedback on desired products. OWIP, presented to the Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation, including the CEO, the Vice President, and Performance Manager about the availability of LMI data and desired products. The LMI Team provided updates on new resources and planned products that were shaped by compiling information from a previous brainstorming session with LWIAs. An A-Z index on the LMI website is in the developmental stage after consulting with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) sub-committee where a meeting about LMI as a service to Businesses, Job seekers, and the Local Areas occurred. The LMI Team conducted consultations with various interested stakeholders, including Business Services and Local Development Corporations, in establishing the requirements for the Industry Analysis Project (IAP) redesign to ensure the tool is easy for our client base to use.

OWIP sought feedback from stakeholders and customers regarding the quality of our data, publications, customer service, training materials, and, outreach activities. As part of customer consultations in PY 2014, OWIP

- Most Frequently Used Products*

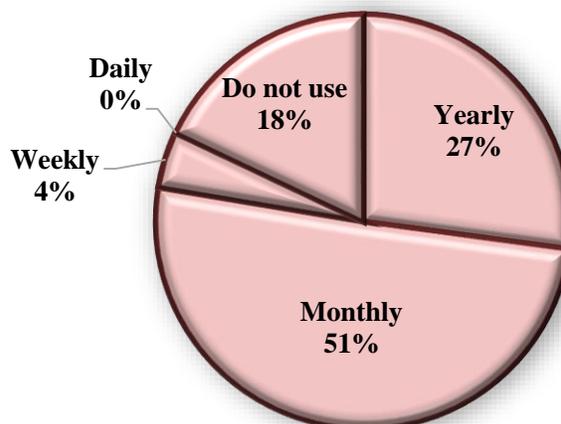
 - Local Area Unemployment Statistics
 - Growth Industries by Workforce Area
 - Labor Force, Demographic and Jobs Overview
 - Occupational and Industry Projections
 - Fact Sheets by Workforce Region
 - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

How likely are you going to continue using OWIP’s products? Not at all Likely
0%



Graph 1: Survey results on continuation of products

Frequency of Use for all LMI Products



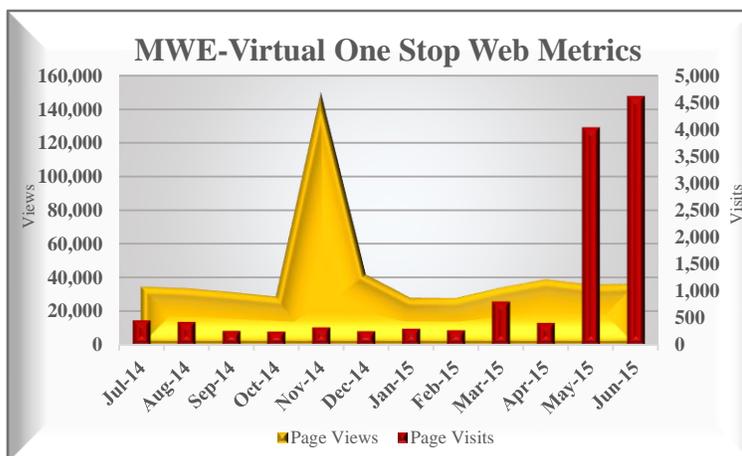
Graph 2: Survey results on frequency of use

created and conducted a new labor market information product survey, using Survey Monkey, to determine the impact and usability of its products, data analyses as well as customer service.

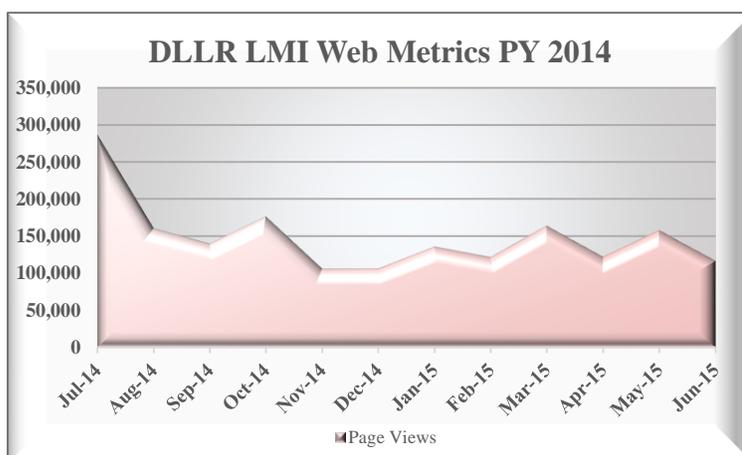
General findings of the survey were that most users are very familiar with OWIP’s data and products (>66%), and 80% found the data they were researching. Respondents liked the Current Employment Statistics (CES) and the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data coverage. Over 66% of the survey responses were very likely or somewhat likely to continue to use OWIP for their data (Graph 1). We observed that across all LMI products, the survey indicates that most respondents utilized our products on a monthly basis (Graph 2).

VI. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN TO MEET CUSTOMER NEEDS

OWIP continuously provides data, expertise, and analyses to its customers ranging from the general public to other state agencies in the form of responding to inquiries, providing information via the internet, and providing hands-on training. OWIP staff provided responses to more than 240 customers ranging from information on labor force participation rate to Green Jobs in PY 2014. OWIP consistently engages with the various Workforce Regions and other stakeholders. The aim of this interaction is to enhance information sharing and to be available for technical assistance or inquiries. Additionally, the MWE-VOS and DLLR websites are continuously updated to meet customers’ needs, and have been viewed by many web visitors with interest in OWIP’s labor market data and workforce information



Graph 3: Page views and visits metrics for the MWE-VOS



Graph 4: Page views metrics for the DLLR-LMI website

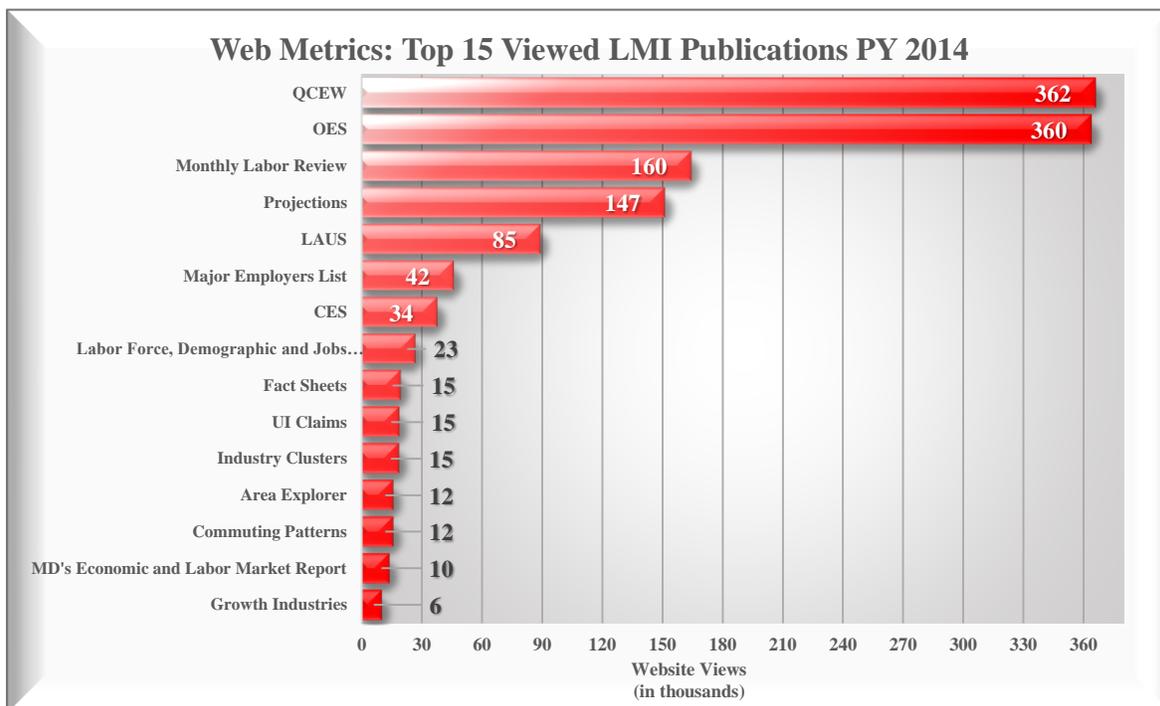
(Graphs 3, 4, & 5). The OWIP-LMI website views peaked in July 2014 with over 286,000 views and almost 1.8 million total views during PY 2014 (Graph 4). Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Occupational Employment Statistics (OES), and the Monthly Labor

Review are some of our most frequented products with over 160,000 views in the previous Program Year (Graph 5). Some LMI publications growing in viewership are the Area Explorer and Maryland’s Economic and Labor Market Analysis Report. Both publications were not available until March 2015, however the products are listed on the top LMI publications graph with over 10,000 views (Graph 5).

During PY 2014, OWIP undertook the following to meet customers’ needs:

- Provided a Hands-on Labor Market Information training at Wor Wic Community College to demonstrate how to use the Maryland Workforce Exchange and other freely available data and tools, in addition, how to use it to improve and make informed decisions
- Provided data on veterans frequently, including employment, unemployment, and occupation for users ranging from the general public to DLLR’s Veterans Program Manager. Played a key role in providing input about the projected employment outlook for veterans as part of the five years plan narrative for Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG)
- Offered quick tips on using LMI and an overview of LMI products and services during Labor Exchange Administrators (LEA) meeting
- Held a Labor Market Information (LMI) 101 training for the Upper Shore Business Team, with representatives from Kent, Queen Anne’s County, Caroline, Talbot and Dorchester Counties.
- Presented, in collaboration with the Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board, a multi-day workshop on “Using Labor Market Information in Career Counseling”
- Supplied data to newspaper, radio, and television reporters in conjunction with the communications office. Provided employment statistics for the Hagerstown-Martinsburg Metropolitan Statistical Area to a news reporter who wanted data for an on-camera interview. OWIP submitted data on the number of manufacturing jobs in Maryland from 2007 – present to a Maryland State Senator and many more requests from various outlets.
- Provided custom analyses ranging from an analysis of employment along the Route 1 corridor for the Mid-Maryland Workforce Investment Area to input on the possible training uses for a technical training center located at Chesapeake College
- Prepared LMI data for various grants throughout the year, including; the State Workforce and Education Alignment Project (SWEAP), Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI), Workforce Innovation Fund (WIF), and the American Apprenticeship Grant (AA)

- Addressed students and family members at Prince George’s County Community College a presentation titled, “Using Labor Market Information to Find Your Career Path” as part of the Career Options Conference



Graph 5: DLLR LMI publication metrics

VII. NEW TOOLS AND RESOURCES

OWIP prioritizes finding solutions and working smarter in order to produce improved and innovative products for its stakeholders and customers. In late 2014, the decision was made to redesign the OWIP website after receiving feedback from our customers and stakeholders. In designing the new website there were the following objectives:

- i. To reduce the amount of text
- ii. Add more graphics and maps
- iii. Reduce human error by introducing automated tables
- iv. To make data easier to find by moving the most popular dataset links on to the landing page

Along with CES, LAUS, OES, and QCEW data, new sections were created to enhance the user experience. The iDash board gives the end user quick access to our most requested data. Access to further Seasonally Adjusted LAUS data through gauges, CES data via a bar chart, and a line chart of the current and previous three months of Real-time LMI data. A new section on the OWIP landing page named the Area Explorer was also created. This section included a map of Maryland’s workforce regions where the end user can click on a workforce region and view all the pertinent data on that selected region. Lastly, an Additional Resources section was added so customers conducting research can have some of the most current resources at their disposal.

In PY 2014, OWIP automated a number of data transfer processes for public and internal use. To coincide with the new website launch in March 2015, OWIP implemented the use of public automated data tables through the cloud-based software package dataZoa. DataZoa spiders data directly from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, ensuring timely and accurate data. These automated data tables provide key information on the state’s labor force in addition to home and working employment levels. Internally, dataZoa is utilized through our internal dashboard the “Employment and Unemployment Snapshot”, which goes directly to the Communications staff at DLLR and the Governor’s office. The snapshot allows for comparison of employment gains and losses of all 50 states over time. As part of the snapshot, a “State Rankings” report was created. This report ranks the states’ unemployment rates, total nonfarm employment, and private employment. Maryland’s neighboring states (Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Delaware) are emphasized in this internal document.

Tableau Public, a free cloud-driven data visualization tool was implemented on the OWIP website in PY 2014. This tool has been used to display labor market data and workforce information graphically by allowing for filtering and sorting of the data in a visually appealing way. Datasets created using Tableau Public include Long-Term Occupational Projections by workforce region, Major Employers data for the state and substate areas, and Long-Term Industry Projections.

OWIP is in the final phase of completing the required documents for the redesign of the Industry Analysis Project (IAP). The IAP is a software application system used for internal analyses of the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage (QCEW) data. Once implemented, the new web-based tool will allow users, ranging from job seekers to researchers, to explore the data to gain greater insight into the data they are analyzing.

VIII. EFFORTS TO CREATE AND SUPPORT PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

On a quarterly basis, OWIP shares its data, stemming from the QCEW program, on employment and wages. This data is shared with select agencies, universities, and non-profits that have a standing data sharing agreement on file with OWIP. Currently, OWIP maintains data sharing agreements with seven entities.

OWIP strengthened its partnership and collaboration with relevant stakeholders on labor market data and workforce information initiatives. These include continued support to the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Partnership by sharing data, and by having economist Hillary Huffer give a presentation entitled “Examining Employment Data with OnTheMap and GIS: A

Data Sharing Agreements

- Maryland’s Non-profit Consortium
- Jacob France Institute at the University of Baltimore
- Center for Smart Growth at the University of Maryland
- Maryland Department of Planning
- Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development
- Montgomery County Economic Development Office
- Montgomery County Parks and Planning Office

Comparison of the Baltimore Washington Corridor and the Interstate 270 Technology Corridor” 2014 LED Partnership Workshop.

As part of an effort to advance the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS), a data repository that links education and workforce data, OWIP participated in the Research and Policy Advisory Board and the Data Governance Advisory Board along with the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MDSE).

OWIP strengthened its partnership with the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) by hosting a training session on the American Community Survey (ACS) datasets. Moderated by MDP, the purpose of this training session was to educate the Labor Market Information (LMI) Team about available data from the Census Bureau.

OWIP also worked with a consortium of partners from neighboring state agencies. OWIP worked closely with the Department of Human Resources to provide LMI for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T) Pilot Project grant proposal. Meetings with the Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) were held to identify synergies within our agencies and continue to provide them with QCEW data via a data-sharing agreement. A collaboration was formed between DLLR’s Veterans program and the Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services to supply DLLR with the number of incarcerated veterans in Maryland. Lastly, OWIP participated on an interagency Governor’s Task Force to ensure retirement security for all Marylanders by providing data and analyses of Maryland residents with access to retirement savings.

IX. ACTIVITIES TO LEVERAGE LMI-WI FUNDING

OWIP maintains compliance of the PY 2014’s WIG funding by consistently populating and updating both the MWE-VOS and DLLR websites. These websites are populated with a variety of labor market products from developing and publishing industry and occupational projections, producing special labor market analyses and reports, to working with stakeholders on workforce related activities. OWIP continues to leverage the LMI-WI funding to partially finance additional projects.

OWIP was successfully awarded \$175,000 as part of the Job-Driven National Emergency (JD-NEG) grant to redesign the Industry Analysis Project (IAP). Previously, the IAP has been used for internal analyses of QCEW data – but will now be a web portal for users to research QCEW data. Additionally, OWIP was written into the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant, headed by Montgomery College, to provide Cybersecurity related LMI. The Office of Workforce Information and Performance utilized the WIG funds throughout the year and highlights are as follows:

2014 Program Year Expenditures	
Program Year 2014 WIG Award	\$ 626,679.00
Program Year 2014 WIG Expenditures	\$ 492,219.84
WIG Carryover	\$ 134,459.16
Personnel	\$ 341,289.53
Communications	\$ 3,816.03
Travel	\$ 13,354.34
Contractual Services	\$ 56,892.95
Supplies	\$ 3,915.13
Indirect Cost	\$ 37,473.46
Other Operating Cost	\$ 4.02
Department Overhead	\$ 18,901.65
Total Expenditures	\$ 492,219.84

X. RECOMMENDATIONS TO ETA FOR CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS TO WIGS REQUIREMENTS

The WIG funds support vital LMI initiatives that include industry and occupational projections, key LMI data products, and responding to inquiries. Also, they provide for important outreach activities that allow for deeper understanding of the available labor market data and analyses. Training and other out-of-office LMI activities are part of the ETA’s WIG requirements. However, providing these services both in the field and from the offices can be demanding for a limited number of staff thus impacting the capacity of LMI offices to cater to its stakeholders. Therefore, an increase in staff which will require an increase in grant funds would be appropriate to meet stakeholders and customer demand statewide. In view of this, OWIP recommends that ETA maintains its commitment to providing and increasing the WIG funds to states.

Produced by:



THE LMI TEAM

*Office of Workforce Information and Performance
Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning*

1100 N. Eutaw Street, Room 316
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-767-2250

DLWDALLMI-DLLR@maryland.gov
www.dllr.maryland.gov/lmi

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Carolyn J. Mitchell, OWIP Director
(410) 767-2953
carolyn.mitchell@maryland.gov

Hillary Huffer, Economist/ LMI Manager
(410) 767-2253
hillary.huffer@maryland.gov

Jones Williams, BLS Program Administrator
(410) 767-2265
jonesn.williams@maryland.gov