

Workforce Information Core Products and Services Annual Performance Report Program Year 2014

During Program Year 2014, the Research, Information and Analysis Division of WorkForce West Virginia continued to meet its goals of producing and disseminating labor market information in accordance with requirements outlined in the Workforce Information Grant. Working closely with workforce investment boards, economic development authorities, state lawmakers, and vocational and career counselors, the Division has conducted studies and offered assistance to those putting West Virginians back to work. Frequent contact with workforce investment boards has enabled RIA to understand and address the needs of the customers served by these boards, and thus tailor products such as industry growth and decline data and demand occupations to assist these customers.

Publish an annual economic analysis review

An annual economic review is prepared for the Governor and the state workforce investment boards. This report is made available to other economic development groups and policy makers as well. The report is available in printed format to its primary users, and is accessible to anyone via the Division's website.

The latest completed report contains:

- A summary of state economic activity
- Economic indicators and per capita income data
- Nonfarm payroll employment
- Civilian labor force for the state and counties
- Employment and wage data
- Detailed economic data for each of the seven workforce investment areas including demographic, census, labor force, nonfarm payroll employment, wage data, largest employer listing, occupational demand, industry employment projections showing growth and decline
- Employment by size of establishment/employers

Conduct special studies and economic analyses

Essentially, LMI users and customers provide the impetus for unique studies and analyses of economic movement or interest. Workforce investment boards, the Governor's office, and various government policy groups continue to seek reliable, quantifiable information that supports decision making for legislative action or valid business assessments. The state's Labor Market Information office remains the most reliable source for that data. Notable studies and analyses conducted during the past program year include:

*Quarterly reports are prepared for the legislature, measuring unemployment insurance activities such as initial claims, weeks claimed, weeks compensated, and benefits paid and their impact on the Unemployment Insurance trust fund.

*Demand Occupations remain a vital resource to workforce investment boards. Reports produced regularly and made available on our website encompass topics extending from fundamental statistics to the more diverse information of demand occupations.

*2014 Economic Review: An economic review for the Governor and legislators, profiling the existing economic fitness of the state, including historical data and future prospects.

*Special labor market studies are written and updated on our website. Recent studies include a look at the residency and veteran status of workers in the oil and gas industry and our annual look at the 100 largest private employers in West Virginia.

Continue to populate the Workforce Information Database

- We are currently using version 2.6 of the WID
- Internet delivery of WID data on our rebranded website is continuing. We are using Tableau to present graphical representations of more of the WID data.
- Core tables are populated and are updated as data become available.
- The non-core tables that are populated are updated as data become available.
- We have updated the WID tables to include the new geographies that became available in spring 2015.

Post products, information, and reports on the Internet

Research, Information and Analysis has maintained a website for nearly 20 years, a site which received approximately two million hits last year. Products, information, and reports that are posted on the Division's main site include:

- Latest monthly data for counties, workforce investment areas, metropolitan statistical areas, state, and nation <http://lmi.workforcewv.org/DataRelease/StateRelease.html>
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/DataRelease/CountyRelease.html>
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/DataRelease/USRelease.html>
- Data releases announcing updates on economic data, including top employers, employment and wages, and unemployment rate
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/EandWAnnual/Top100Employers.html>
http://lmi.workforcewv.org/Employment_N_Wages/EnW.html
- Employment/unemployment data for nation, state, counties, workforce investment areas, metropolitan statistical areas, and micropolitan and consolidated statistical areas
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/DataRelease/CountyRelease.html>
- Data from Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) including historical data.
http://lmi.workforcewv.org/Employment_N_Wages/EnW.html
- Occupational Data and Projections
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/LTprojections/LTProjMenu.html>
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/occproj/ShortTermProjMenu.html>
- Industry Projections, both short-term and long-term
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/IndProj/IndustryProjectionsMenu.html>
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/LTprojections/LTProjMenu.html>
- Data from Occupational Safety and Health
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/OSHDefault.html>
- West Virginia County Profiles including Workforce Investment Areas
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/cntyprof/CntyProfilesMenu.html>
- Top 100 private employers in West Virginia
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/EandWAnnual/Top100Employers.html>
- Top 10 employers by WV County
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/EandWAnnual/TopTenEmployersByCounty.html>
- Top 25 employers by Workforce Investment Area
- <http://lmi.workforcewv.org/EandWAnnual/TopTenEmployersByCounty.html>
- Employment by size of establishment.
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/EandWAnnual/SizeOfFirm.html>
- Special reports such as:

- The West Virginia Oil and Gas Study
(<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/LaborMarketStudies/WVOilandGasStudy.html>)
- Poverty Level Percentages by Census Tracts - 2013 ACS Data
(<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/Maps/povertylevels.html>)

Contact information for customer comment and input is prominent on the LMI website and is provided on all published information and anytime our staff interacts with customers. The LMI shop offers options for more contact and data by providing numerous links, as well as an email address to submit data requests.

Customer consultation of workforce information and products

Partnership between the state labor market information staff and the local workforce investment boards continues to produce vital information on regional labor market conditions. Labor market information is provided to the boards through both core products, such as occupational projections, and specifically tailored data analyses supplied upon request. The core products of occupational, industry, and employment and unemployment data are fundamental tools for the local boards in their support of the regional economies. Examples of the specialized data products are Demand Occupations, Industry Projections, Labor Sheds, and Commuter Analysis, all adapted to the specific economic development effort of the requesting agency. Research, Information and Analysis also works closely with the West Virginia Development Office, State Economic Development Authorities, the West Virginia Department of Education, West Virginia University, Marshall University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Regional Intergovernmental Council, and city governments.

Local boards use labor market information in their efforts to identify, attract, and foster emergent and growing industries and businesses. The data are also used to assist in the education and training of the local workforce, to assist jobseekers in finding employment that provides a sustainable wage, and to match the available labor pool with the businesses that seek to set up shop within the state. Also, Research, Information, and Analysis assists the West Virginia Department of Highways with a traffic analysis.

Partner and consult on a continuing basis with workforce investment boards

WorkForce West Virginia frequently consults with all seven workforce investment boards, some on a nearly weekly basis, in order to supply data and meet requests. These requests frequently involve wage data, commuting patterns, work sheds, and labor pool information. Workforce investment boards have participated in the development of innovative endeavors, such as customized reports regarding employment and wages. Research, Information and Analysis is asked to participate in

quarterly workforce investment board meeting that include roundtable discussions and presentations.

WorkForce West Virginia also works closely with the West Virginia Development Office, providing information (such as QCEW data in an electronic format) to assist employers who contemplate locating within the state, thus aiding in job creation and economic development. Research, Information, and Analysis is contacted by the Development Office as frequently as several times a week.

Much data (such as Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, total nonfarm payroll employment, and unemployment rates) continue to be produced for counties, metropolitan statistical areas, and workforce investment areas, thus creating a plethora of labor market information for data seekers. Demand occupations by workforce investment area are well received by the statewide boards, and tend to be most frequently requested data by WIB staff.

Accomplishments

Data items and series continue to be adapted to the Tableau supported Division web site. In the past twelve months in fact, the amount of information converted has more than doubled.

Results of the first legislative mandated economic survey and analysis report, focusing on the influence of natural gas production from the Marcellus Shale was completed this past program year. Because of the enormity of the Marcellus Shale and the reported reserves lying beneath the ground in most of West Virginia, the economic impact will likely be felt for decades. As a result, the state legislature has directed an annual economic analysis be provided by the Division in a stipulated manner. The survey of activity from the shale work has already begun for the coming year with those conclusions to be provided in the next program year. The Division Director provides the legislature with the economic effect of this analysis as required.

Limitations

As in the past, budget constraints continue to dampen the effectiveness of data production and dissemination. Unfunded tasks, such as the Mass Layoff Statistics program and now the legislative mandated Marcellus Shale report, place an added degree of financial responsibility on the Division and its limited resources. Federal funding, which the Division is completely dependent on, is frequently under pressure from congressional advocates of smaller and more efficient government. In spite of these challenges, the Division continues to offer timely and reliable economic information to the Workforce Investment Areas, businesses, policy makers, government leaders and the general population.