

Maine Workforce Investment Grants for States Activities PY 2015

1. Workforce Information Database (WIDb) supply the version used and any activities this year

- a) WIDb version 2.6.1 is installed. Data is updated as is becomes available for public release.
- b) We also provide interactives that allow users to visually see trends in various datasets as well as download the data for the four BLS programs: [LAUS](#), [CES](#), [QCEW](#) & [OES](#). All data is updated on the site as soon as it is available for public release. Additional interactives include:
 - i) [Demographics of employment and unemployment](#) based on Current Population Survey data
 - ii) [Unemployment insurance trust fund and claims](#)
 - iii) [County profiles](#)
 - iv) [High wage, in-demand jobs by education requirement](#)
 - v) [Job vacancy survey](#)
 - vi) [Jobs recovery following each of the last seven recessions](#)
 - vii) [Top 50 private employers in the state](#)
 - viii) [Unemployment rates by county](#)
 - ix) [Unemployment and labor force for a user defined area](#)
 - x) [Unemployment rate comparison, Maine versus any other state](#)
 - xi) [Which industries are growing](#)
 - xii) [Workers with disabilities](#)
 - xiii) [Job outlook to 2024](#)

2. Workforce projections, 2014 to 2024

- a) Industry and occupational employment projections, including the ability for users to sort by growing or declining occupations, job openings, by education requirement for the job and other criteria: www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/outlook.html
- b) Data on demographic projections by age and gender: www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/outlookDemographic.html
- c) Chart publication providing a higher level look at how demographic trends are constraining workforce growth, as well as past and expected industry and occupational job trends. The occupational section not only examines broad trends, but also includes a focus on the outlook for jobs by education requirement and the outlook for STEM versus Non-STEM occupations: www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/data/projections/2024/2024_Outlook.pdf

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3. Economic Analysis/Special Studies

- a) Subject articles are available on our Blog page (www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/blog.html) including:
- i) [The Outlook for Workforce Growth to 2024 - June 2016](#)
 - ii) [Why is Labor Force Participation Declining? - June 2016](#)
 - iii) [2015 Job Vacancy Survey - May 2016](#)
 - iv) [Reports that Maine is Losing Jobs are Based on Imprecise Data – April 2016](#)
 - v) [Veterans in Maine’s Workforce - March 2016](#)
 - vi) [Home-Based Work Is Rising - November 2015](#)
 - vii) [Difficult-to-Fill Vacancies - What Employers Reported in September 2014 - September 2015](#)
 - viii) [New Business Establishments - More Branches, Fewer New Firms - August 2015](#)
 - ix) [Jobs More Slowly Created and More Slowly Destroyed – August 2015](#)
 - x) [Job Creation from New Business Establishments Has Declined - July 2015](#)
- b) Publications and presentations including:
- i) **January 2016** – [Annual Workforce Report](#) (also used as the [workforce context for the State of Maine 2016 to 2020 Unified Plan](#) under WIOA)
 - ii) **July 2016** - [Maine Workforce and STEM Occupations Outlook 2014 to 2024](#)
 - iii) **June 2016** - [Unemployment Rates and Labor Force within a User Defined Distance - Interactive/Map](#)
 - iv) **May 2016** - [2015 Job Vacancy Survey](#)
 - v) **January 2016** - [Workforce Forecast to 2024 and Recent Trends](#)
 - vi) **October 2015** - [Tightening Labor Market, Presentation to the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission](#)
 - vii) **September 2015** - [Maine Workforce Trends - Veteran's Conference](#)
 - viii) **January 2016** - [Labor Market Information and Online Resources For Employment Services Providers](#)
 - ix) **July 2016** - [Maine Workforce & STEM Occupations Outlook, 2014 to 2024](#)
 - x) **June 2016** - [Economic and Workforce Analysis for Central/Western LWIB WIOA plan](#)
 - xi) **June 2016** - [Economic and Workforce Analysis for Coastal Counties LWIB WIOA plan](#)
 - xii) **June 2016** - [Economic and Workforce Analysis for Northern LWIB WIOA plan](#)

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- xiii) **July 2015** – [Franklin County Current Conditions for regional economic development agency](#)
- xiv) **May 2016** - [Labor Market Information and Online Resources Career-Infused Adult Education Forum](#)
- xv) **June 2016** - [Labor Market Information and Online Resources Maine Adult Education Association](#)
- xvi) **July 2015** - [Labor Market Information and Online Resources Margaret Chase Smith Summer Interns](#)
- xvii) **June 2016** - [Kennebec County Current Outlook and Recent Trends](#)
- xviii) **June 2016** – [Somerset County Current Outlook and Recent Trends](#)
- xix) **April 26, 2016** - [Labor Market Information and Online Resources VR/CRP Quarterly Meeting](#)
- xx) **October 30, 2015** - [Labor Market Information and Online Resources Maine Adult Education Association Corrections Education Forum](#)
- xxi) **June 2016** - [Characteristics of Low Wage Workers in Maine, 2015](#)
- xxii) **April 2016** – [Workforce and STEM Job Outlook for Maine STEM Council](#)
- xxiii) **November 20, 2015** – [Update on conditions for State Workforce Board](#)
- xxiv) **September 2015** - [Labor Market Information and Online Resources For Job Counselors and Job Seekers](#)

4. Activities undertaken to meet customer needs

A survey of employers for job vacancies in September 2015 was completed. Results were reported for occupations, regions, and sectors at www.maine.gov/labor/cwri/jvs.

5. New tools and resources

- a) Job Vacancy Survey
- b) Several of the interactives listed in section 1.

6. Efforts to create and support partnerships and collaborations

- a) Data sharing MOUs with partners, including :
- b) University of Maine System
- c) Maine Community College System
- d) Bureau of Employment Services
- e) Bureau of Unemployment Compensation
- f) Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

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- g) Maine Department of Education / Adult Ed
- h) These partnerships help to expand available data, providing greater insight into workforce outcomes by type of training and education.

7. Activities to leverage LMI-WI funding

Successfully submitted and received a General Fund allocation to support the Workforce Outcomes Warehouse and employment outcome research.

8. Recommendations to ETA for changes and improvements to WIGs requirements

- a) Increase base funding for small states. Infrastructure costs for systems are similar for small and large states. The funding formula essentially requires small states to use a larger share of their funding on infrastructure and a smaller share on meeting the needs of the public relative to larger states.
- b) Eliminate the requirement for short term, two year projections. Through 2007 and even in early 2008, almost no one foresaw the worst recession in 70 years was months away. Probably every state forecast growth for the next two years. All state analysts were wrong. Even if an analyst have foreseen massive job loss around the corner, senior political staff would not allow such a forecast to be published (this is in all states, not just Maine). Additionally, the rotation of jobs out of some occupations and into other occupations is significant over a long period, such as 10 years, but over a two year period those changes are quite marginal. Two year projections provide virtually no value to the user community.
- c) Additional information on where job vacancies are occurring, that identifies what regions, industries, and occupations have a persistence of openings today provides an excellent supplement to the long-term projections. Therefore, we funding for a job vacancy survey in lieu of short-term projections makes sense.
- d) Stop promoting job postings as Real Time LMI and as a replacement to traditionally developed occupational demand products. Job postings data were researched as part of the Northeast Consortium's Green LMI Project. The consortium determined that postings were not appropriate as a decision making tool. The data series is better at showing larger trends, but must be used in conjunction with other LMI data series. At higher levels of detail it could easily misinform a user. A good review of postings as real time LMI is on the Connecticut site at:
<http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/lmi/green/Guide%20To%20Using%20Real-Time%20Data%20for%20LMI%20Analysts.pdf>