

**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND TRAINING
Division of Labor Market Information**

**Program Year 2015
Workforce Information Grant to States
Annual Performance Report**

Workforce Plan Deliverables and Outcomes

(1) Populate the Workforce Information Database with state and local data.

Rhode Island is currently using version 2.6 of the Workforce Information Database in its on-line web application from Geographic Solutions Inc., known as EmployRI. All of the core tables have been populated with the latest available information in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Analyst Resource Center. Rhode Island moved to version 2.6 in the Workforce Information Database during the first quarter of 2016.

(2) Produce and disseminate industry and occupational projections.

RI completed the production of its 2014-2024 long-term industry and occupational projections. The projections were submitted to the Projections Managing Partnership at the end of June 2016 and used to populate our Workforce Information Database. These latest projections can be found on our web site at: <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/proj.htm>

The 2015 to 2017 short-term occupational projections were completed in February 2016 and used to populate our Workforce Information Database. An extract file was submitted via the Short Term Projections Submissions Portal and to the Boston Regional Office. These projections can be found on our web at: <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/stproj.htm>

As in prior years and noted in our previous years' application cover letters, RI does not produce sub-state projections due to the small size of the state. RI is one large labor market area where workers can commute to work throughout the state. As such, it makes little sense to expend resources to develop sub-state projections that would essentially mirror our statewide projections.

(3) **Conduct and publish relevant economic analyses, special workforce information, and/or economic studies, determined to be of benefit to the governor, state and local WIBs.**

- RILMI completed its annual *Rhode Island Employment Trends and Workforce Issues - 2015* in December 2015. The publication was updated in September 2016 to include more up-to-date information. RILMI is now producing this publication as more updated data becomes available.

This publication includes data on the labor force and job trends; industry employment; the impact of the recession; local employment dynamics; characteristics of the insured unemployed; UI claims; labor supply and demand trends from the Conference Board; industry and occupational projections; job training requirements; and information from the American Community Survey on educational attainment, workforce participation and median earnings by education level. An electronic copy is available on our web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/pdf/trends.pdf.

- RI continued to produce its *Quarterly Labor Supply and Demand* report implemented during the PY 2011. This report uses claims data and job openings data from our RI job board. This report was developed in response to feedback we receive from customers and Workforce Development staff. The report compares EmployRI job postings from our netWORKri job board with the availability of Unemployment Insurance claimants in those job areas. This year the hard copy report was condensed to a one page document and an on-line version was expanded to include more occupational data. This quarterly report can be found at: www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/supply&demand.htm
- LMI continued with its practice of completing a quarterly review of the monthly job numbers produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) using quarterly UI Tax data reported by employers to forecast expected revisions in the job numbers when annual benchmarking process is conducted. Implemented during the PY 2011, this review was in response to the divergence we were seeing in the official job numbers and the latest data reported by employers.

This review is conducted quarterly by LMI in order to provide the department's director a preview of the job revisions expected to result from the BLS annual revision. The estimates are also presented by the LMI director at the State Revenue & Caseload Estimating Conferences in November 2015 and May 2016 in order to give the state revenue estimators a more current view of the job trends in RI.

- LMI provided Targeted Employment Area (TEA) Designation materials and certification letters throughout the program year for several employers interested in opening new businesses under the EB-5 Visa program of the United States Center for Immigration Services. The TEA process encourages the creation of jobs through foreign investment at businesses in high unemployment areas.

In addition, LMI provided an overview of the EB-5 Visa program and determined potential eligibility for areas included in the I-195 Development Project (a state project for developing land made available by the relocation of Interstate 195) to the CommerceRI Department.

(4) Post products, information and reports on the Internet.

All LMI and workforce information products and reports are posted to our Labor Market Information web site (www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi). LMI also uses an e-mail notification system to alert registered users to new products as they are released.

Reports released in the last program year include:

- ***Rhode Island Employment Trends and Workforce Issues*** at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/pdf/trends.pdf. This report provides an overview of the current employment situation in RI, the condition of our job market, labor force and unemployment levels, our expected future job growth and the effect that population trends and demographic changes may have on RI's ability to meet the new job demands.
- ***State of the State: A Statistical Profile of Rhode Island's Cities and Towns*** at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/pdf/stateofstate.pdf
- The RI 2015 occupational wage rates were posted on the LMI website at <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/oes/statealpha.htm>. The **2015 Rhode Island Occupational Wage** brochure <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/oes/wagereport.htm>. The 2015 data include four wage measures for each occupation (mean, entry, median, experienced), estimated employment, and the typical educational level for each occupation.
- Our ***Monthly Employment Bulletin*** is a monthly newsletter that provides information on Labor Market Information (LMI) and Department of Labor and Training (DLT) activities, the civilian labor force statistics, employment by industry, manufacturing hours and earnings, as well as various other economic data. The report can be found at: www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/bulletin.htm .
- ***Rhode Island Quarterly Labor Supply and Demand Report*** – Unemployment insurance claimants represent an able and available **supply** of trained labor. On-line postings represent a current **demand** for labor. A comparison of these two datasets provides an indication of occupational groups for which labor supply is sufficient to meet employer's current needs and for which there may be a shortage of trained workers available to meet employer's current demands. The report can be found at: www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/supply&demand.htm
- ***Multiple Jobholders in the Ocean State – 2015*** data. Can be found at: www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/mjh.htm.
- ***Women's Earnings in the Ocean State 1998-2014*** can be found at: <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/womenearn.htm>
- ***Union Membership in Rhode Island 2015*** can be found at: <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/union.htm>
- ***Regional Economic Overview*** – this product provides an overview of RI's labor force statistics and jobs data as they compare to the nation and other New England states. Changes since the previous month, year, start of the year and recession are all summarized on a monthly basis. Can be found at: <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/news/overview.htm>

(5) Partner and consult on a continuing basis with workforce investment boards and other key workforce and economic development partners and stakeholders.

- The LMI Director testified at the State Revenue & Caseload Estimating Conferences in November 2015 and in May 2016. Testimony at the conferences includes a review of expected job number revisions based on an analysis of the quarterly UI Tax reports received from employers.
- LMI Director served on the “Council of Economic Advisors” formed under the previous administration. The first meeting under the current administration was held April 2016.
- LMI provided statistics to our State Workforce Investment Office for WIOA funding – included were unemployment rates, claims data, resident employment and declining industry data, an annual request.
- LMI staff continued to serve as members of the Advisory Group for the department’s Longitudinal Data Quality Initiative. LMI provided data and assisted in designing and reviewing stories that represent the labor force experiences of various populations in the state.
- LMI updated annual publications for the Providence/Cranston and Greater RI WIA which includes data relating to employment, unemployment, demographics and unemployment insurance claimants for the area. They can be found at: <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/pcwia.htm> and <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/griwia.htm>
- LMI staff worked with the RI Department of Higher Education to develop a definition of high demand/high wage jobs as a first step in determining if the state’s public institutions are meeting the demands of the state’s labor market. Staff from the two departments also partnered to develop a “CIP to SOC” crosswalk which focused on fields of study available at the state’s public institutions.
- LMI staff began work on developing a series of career posters that connect training programs available at the state’s career and tech schools to the occupations for which the training relates. Information on wages and projected openings are included. Initial posters include cosmetology, auto mechanics, carpentry and culinary arts.
- LMI staff participated as a member of the Career and Technical School Task Force of the state’s capital city, Providence. LMI provided customized occupational data relating to occupations for which career and vocational training at the high school level best relates.
- LMI staff responded to numerous requests from Commence RI, the state’s main economic development commission requesting customized information relating to industries, occupations, major employers, target employment areas, EB-5 certification guidelines, local unemployment wages and income.
- LMI assisted the Workforce Development division in identifying and notifying Unemployment Insurance claimants for a special workforce grant program – “Platform to Employment”.

- LMI Director participates in monthly phone calls with reporters from the state's largest newspaper to explain current trends in the state's unemployment rate and job numbers. LMI staff provide more detailed follow-up information upon request.
- LMI staff respond to media requests which often require special research. Requests received this year included information on the "Design" occupations in RI, the Temporary Help Industry, Historic Manufacturing Sector data, Minimum Wage Earners, and Labor Force changes.
- LMI staff meet with independent research partners working on special projects for the department to provide overviews of BLS and LMI programs, including definitions, data collections methods, and program outputs, data availability and customized reports.
- LMI prepared a revised list of In-Demand Occupations for use by the Workforce Investment Office training service providers, an annual request.
- LMI staff (5) participated in a Webinar training provided by the US Census Bureau detailing the new features of the LEHD site.
- LMI Director attended the Governor's Workforce Board Annual Meeting in October 2015.
- LMI staff attend monthly meetings of the Governor's Workforce Board.

(6) Labor Market Information presentations by LMI Staff

- LMI staff provided overview of Current Labor Market Conditions to members of the state legislature at the State Revenue Estimating Conference in November 2015 and May 2016.
- LMI staff presented Industry and Occupational Projections to the Career and Technical School Task Force of the state's capital city, Providence.
- LMI staff presented occupational information at five career fairs during the program year, one university and four high schools located in the state. Fairs were held in January, February, April and May 2016.
- LMI staff presented information on Understanding the Labor Market and Industry Sectors at a training seminar hosted by the RI Adult Education Professional Development Center in April 2016.
- LMI staff presented information on the Healthcare Industry focusing on industry trends, occupations and wages to the Healthcare Workforce Transformation Advisor Committee of the RI Department of Health and Human Services in June 2016.