

Workforce Information Core Products and Services Annual Performance Report Program Year 2015

During Program Year 2015, 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 development boards, economic development authorities, state lawmakers, and vocational and career counselors, the Division has conducted specialized labor market studies and assisted those who help West Virginians re-enter the state's workforce. Contact with the states workforce development boards occurs regularly and has enabled RIA to understand and address the needs of the customers served by these boards, and thus tailor products such as industry growth, demand occupations, job-to-job flows, employment volatility, etc., to assist their customers.

Publish an annual economic analysis review

An annual economic review is prepared for the Governor and the state workforce development boards. This report is made available to other economic development groups and policy makers as well. The report is available in printed format upon request, but is distributed electronically 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
- Industry and occupational projections summary
- A summary of economic data for each of the seven workforce development areas including demographics, industry mix, population, labor force, nonfarm payroll employment, and wage data
- 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 development 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 development boards. Reports produced regularly and made available on our website encompass topics extending from fundamental statistics to the more diverse information of demand occupations.

*2015 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, employment volatility by county, and job-to-job flows among West Virginia and its neighboring states.

Continue to populate the Workforce Information Database

- We are currently using version 2.6 of the WID
- We continue to expand our use of 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.

Post products, information, and reports on the Internet

The Research, Information and Analysis website is the primary portal through which our labor market data are disseminated. Products, information, and reports that are posted on the Division's main site include:

- Latest monthly data for counties, workforce development 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/TopEmployers.html>
http://lmi.workforcewv.org/Employment_N_Wages/EnW.html
- Employment/unemployment data for nation, state, counties, workforce development 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/STprojections/STOccupationalProjections.html>
- Industry Projections, both short-term and long-term
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/STprojections/STIndustryProjections.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 Development Areas
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/cntyprof/CntyProfilesMenu.html>
- Top employers by state, county, and Workforce Area West Virginia
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/EandWAnnual/TopEmployers.html>
- Employment by size of establishment.
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/EandWAnnual/SizeOfFirm.html>
- Special reports, tools, and visualizations such as:
 - The West Virginia Oil and Gas Study
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/LaborMarketStudies/WVOilandGasStudy.html>
 - Employment Volatility <http://lmi.workforcewv.org/EmploymentVolatility.html>
 - Job-to-Job Flows <http://lmi.workforcewv.org/JobToJobFlows.html>

- Occupational Heat Maps (employment and wage geographic density)
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/occproj/OccupationalWagesMaps.html>
- Occupational Tree Maps (relative size by employment and wage)
<http://lmi.workforcewv.org/occproj/OccWagesTreeMap.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 development boards continues to be an engaging and productive relationship. Labor market information is regularly provided to the boards through both core products, such as occupational projections, and a wide array of specifically tailored data analyses created in coordination with our partners. Core products include occupational, industry, and employment and unemployment data, which are regularly accessed by 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, Job Flows, all adapted to the specific economic development effort of the requesting partner. 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 West Virginia Rural Health Association, Regional Intergovernmental Council, The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, the Community and Technical College System of West Virginia and numerous city and local government entities.

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. RIA annually assists the West Virginia Department of Highways with a traffic analysis.

Partner and consult on a continuing basis with workforce development boards

WorkForce West Virginia regularly consults with all seven of the state's workforce development boards, some on a nearly weekly basis, in order to supply data and meet specialized or custom data requests. These requests frequently involve wage data, commuting patterns, work sheds, and labor pool information. Workforce development

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 development 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 development areas, thus creating a plethora of labor market information for data seekers. Demand occupations by workforce development area are well received by the statewide boards, and continue to be among the most frequently requested data by WDB staff.

Accomplishments

Data items and series continue to be adapted to the Tableau supported Division web site. In the past 12 months, we have converted nearly all of our labor market data into some form of visualization using the Tableau interface.

Results of the final 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.

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 Development Areas, businesses, policy makers, government leaders and the general population.