



Nebraska Workforce Information Grant Report

Introduction and Background Information

Workforce Information Grant activities in Nebraska are carried out by the Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL), Office of Labor Market Information. The Workforce Information Grant (WIG) team for the State of Nebraska is located in the state administrative office building of NDOL in Lincoln, Nebraska.

PY13 Workforce Information Grant Staff

At the beginning of PY13, there were five permanent staff on the WIG team: four Research Analysts and a Research Supervisor. One Research Analyst split time between WIG, WIA and WDQI activities. One Research Analyst left the unit in the fourth quarter of the program year. The position was not refilled within the year but will be filled in PY14. Throughout the year, including during the government shutdown in October 2013, Research Analysts from the Bureau of Labor Statistics programs provided support to WIG staff.

Staff Training & Conferences Attended

WIG staff attended several trainings and conferences during PY13:

Several staff members attended the Nebraska State Data Center's Summer Data Conference in August 2013. This conference focuses on workforce and socio-economic data, Census updates, population trends, and other relevant information.

One WIG staff member is on the state American College Testing (ACT) Council and attended the annual conference, introducing the session on the industry cluster videos.

Two LMI and two SLDS staff members attended the SLDS/WDQI conference in Washington DC in March 2014.

One staff member attended the Projections Managing Partnership (PMP) Summit in June in Pittsburgh, PA. The Summit provided updates on the current initiatives and the strategic plan of the PMP. The summit provided opportunity for participation in key partnership decision-making, training, and networking for state- and sub-state-area forecasting specialists. Highlights included remarks from Sam Wright with the Employment and Training Administration, a demonstration of the new review tools in the projections software, presentations from BLS highlighting national projections and discussing proposed changes to calculating replacement rates, and several sessions highlighting best practices from different states.

One staff member attended the Geographic Solutions 11th Annual Workforce Technology Conference in June. Nebraska uses this web-based software system to deliver labor market information through the agency web site. General sessions included updates on new Geographic Solutions enhancements, US DOL priorities and a Washington update.

In February one staff member attended Strategic Social Media Hands on training presented by Spencer Critchley. Spencer Critchley is a producer, creative director and writer, and the managing partner at Boots Road Group LLC, a digital marketing agency located in California. This two and a half day training

focused on effective use of social media for government agencies. It was sponsored by NDOL and included staff from DOL, Nebraska Department of Economic Development, and the Nebraska Department of Education.

In November two staff attended a seminar hosted by InfoGroup, about Addresses and Demographic Data for State Government.

Two staff members attended the State Longitudinal Data System Workforce Data Quality Initiative conference in Washington D. C. in March. Topics included data governance, how research questions are handled, coordination with partner agencies, and outcomes reports from other states.

Throughout the year staff attended a variety of Webinar training sessions including:

- Changing the condition of low and moderate income workers
- Employers Report Two-Fifths of Job Vacancies are Difficult-to-Fill webinar from C2ER and the LMI Institute
- Using DMV records to access SSNs. Idaho did a presentation about their use of DMV data to track in- and out-migration.
- American Community Survey: What Stakeholders Really Think and How We Can Improve
- State Scorecards for Postsecondary Education and Training
- Jobs for the Future's Improving Higher Education Outcomes in the US
- Be Prepared: Accessing Federal Data from Non-Government Websites on the St. Louis Federal Reserve FRED data system and Stats America hosted by Indiana University.
- Missouri's Training-to-Work Explorer. Their web application for postsecondary education performance is by CIP code and degree but not by institution.
- Understanding Online Job Ads Data. Online job ads overwhelmingly favor college level jobs but over half don't have education requirements. Online ads over-represent industries that demand highly skilled workers.
- Using Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Data to Analyze Sub-State Economies Through Recession and Recovery
- QWI Construction and New Measures
- Using LMI in Decision Making. A panel of community college representatives from across the county discussed how they use LMI data and what kinds of products they would like to see from LMI.
- Getting the Most Out of RIMS II
- Public Policy Opportunities and Challenges for Public Data. Provided an overview of major policy issues at both the state and national levels that affect public data collection and use.
- Upper Valley – OnTheMap
- Peer-to-Peer discussion - LMI Internship - A Win-Win-Win Proposition. Focused on Vermont's LMI internship project.
- Next-Generation Government sponsored by The Center for Digital Government. Focused on new ways to connect and engage customers including the use of social media.
- Introducing QWI Explorer
- WDQI: Texas Products Showcase

- Several conference calls/webinars sponsored by the Projections Managing Partnership (PMP) covering a variety of projections related topics.
- WRIS/WRIS2 conference calls and webinars

PY13 Workforce Information Grant Deliverables

The following pages report a brief review, by deliverable, of work completed during PY2013.

i. Workforce Information Database (WIDb)

The Workforce Information Database provides states with a common structure for storing information in a single database for each state. The database is intended to serve as the cornerstone for information delivery, workforce research, and product development for information that is standard and comparable across all states. Wages in the WID are from the Estimates Delivery System (EDS) system in order to provide users with the most current data possible.

Nebraska WID data can be accessed directly on the NEworks website at <http://networks.nebraska.gov>.

Table Name	Table Type	Core Table	Data Populated
Ces	Data	Y	National: 1939-present month. NE: Statewide, Omaha MSA, Lincoln MSA 2004-present month.
Empdb	Data	Y	Over 80,000 Nebraska Employers including physical location, mailing address, geocode, employee count, credit rating
Income	Data	Y	Census (Median Household-Type 03 Source 1): NE 1984-2011. BEA (Total Income-Type 01 Source 3): National 1929-2012. NE 1929-2012. County 1969-2011. BEA (Per Capita Income-Type 02 Source 3): Nat 1929-2012. NE 1929-2012. MSAs 1969-2011. Counties 1969-2011.
Indprj	Data	Y	Industry Level projections statewide
Industry	Data	Y	Nebraska Industries – includes data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program
Iomatrix	Data	Y	Nebraska Projections
Labforce	Data	Y	1948-present
Licauth	Data	Y	Occupational License ID Directory
License	Data	Y	Occupational Licenses in Nebraska

Occprj	Data	Y	Occupational Level projections statewide
Oeswage	Data	Y	Occupational wages by area
Populatn	Data	Y	Population (Census) National 1900-2012, NE statewide 1900-2012, counties 1970-2012 Projected to 2020

Nebraska maintains and updates the core and optional database tables as designated by ETA under the State Workforce Information Grant. All look-up tables and other necessary updates to ensure that data displays correctly on the NEworks site are also maintained. There were some issues with new SOC and NAICS codes not being displayed on the NEworks site that were resolved when the system was upgraded in January 2014.

The U.S. Census Bureau reclassified the Grand Island Micropolitan Statistical Area (MC) as a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and added a county to the Scottsbluff MC. At that time, WIG staff used Census LED data and LMI data to reclassify the state’s economic regions. The WID geography table was recently updated to reflect these changes, so new data will be able to be accurately reflected on the NEworks website.

Nebraska is required to submit occupational licensing tables to the National Crosswalk Service Center for updates to ACINET on a biannual basis. Nebraska submitted updated files in June 2013. The next update will be in 2015.

ii. Industry and occupational projections

In PY13, short-term (2013-2015) industry and occupational projections were produced for the Nebraska Statewide region and nine sub-state areas. Long-term industry and occupational projections (2012-2022) were produced for the Nebraska Statewide region.

For PY13 the Projections Managing Partnership (PMP) Board recommended a change to the projections cycle. The change suggested that states submit short-term (2013-2015) industry and occupational projections by February 28, 2014. Since PY13 was underway when the change was made, they considered it a voluntary due date for PY13. Nebraska held to the original due date of June 30th, 2014. Due to the suggested change coming in after the grant year started and the state redrawing economic regions the early date and new timeline was not obtainable. Quite a bit of time was required to accommodate for the changes to the regions and the addition of two new areas. However, Nebraska does not anticipate any problems meeting this new due date for PY14.

Industry Projections

Short-term (2013-2015) industry projections were completed in June 2014. In Nebraska, projections for state and all sub-state areas are produced at the same time. Industry projections data is available through Excel worksheets that may be downloaded by customers via the “Data Download Center” page in NEworks at <http://neworks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=433>.

Long-term (2012-2022) industry projections were completed in June 2014 for Nebraska statewide. Normally Nebraska chooses to create and release long-term projections for the sub-state areas at the same

time. This is done so that customers in the local areas do not have to wait an extra year for sub-state projections to be produced. However, due to the amount of time required this year to accommodate for the changes to the regions and the addition of two new areas, the long-term projections for the sub-state areas will be released in PY14 as required in that grant year. Industry projections data is available through Excel worksheets that may be downloaded by customers via the “Data Download Center” page in NEworks at <http://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=433>.

These projections are used by the Nebraska Business Forecasting Council, a group of economists from University of Nebraska at Lincoln and Omaha, Creighton University, Nebraska Public Power District, Nebraska Department of Labor, and the Nebraska Department of Revenue. This group meets twice per year to create a business forecast for the state of Nebraska. Biannual reports, which include forecasts of industry and economic growth in the state, are published in January and June.

Occupation Projections

Short-term (2013-2015) occupational projections were completed in June 2014 for Nebraska statewide and nine sub-state areas. The statewide projections were directly uploaded to Utah utilizing the Projections Suite (PS) software. Projections were also uploaded for inclusion on the projections central website (<http://projectionscentral.com>) through the PS software. Occupation projections can be also be found on the NDOL website at <http://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=433>.

Long-term (2012-2022) Nebraska Statewide occupational projections were completed in June 2014. These projections were directly uploaded to Utah utilizing the PS software. Projections were also uploaded for inclusion on the projections central website (<http://projectionscentral.com>) through the PS software. Occupation projections can be also be found on the NDOL website at <http://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=433>.

Projections information is provided to State and Local Workforce Investment Boards, agency staff, and customers via the NEworks website (<http://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=433>). Projections data has also been integrated into the NEworks website to provide job seekers with information at the point of service while completing job search activities and viewing employer job postings. Data is available through Excel worksheets that may be downloaded by customers via the “Data Download Center” page in NEworks at <http://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=433>.

Staff wrote several articles in the monthly Nebraska Workforce Trends publication that focused on various elements of the projections data. Staff also released a publication that provided an in-depth analysis of the projected occupation and industry trends in Nebraska as well as in each region. WIG staff members are available for presentations and consultations to assist in accurate interpretation of the data used in workforce planning and decision-making.

iii. Annual economic analysis and other reports

Labor Market Regional Reviews

The Labor Market Statewide Regional Review was completed in June 2014 and published to the web. Normally, the Regional Reviews are produced annually for Nebraska Statewide, as well as each Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area in the state. Due to staff turnover, only the statewide Regional Review was completed. The Statewide Regional Review contains a variety of labor market

information, including a demographic review, labor force data, employment by industry and occupation, compensation and employment projections. Wages are from the EDS system to provide timely data to the regions. The EDS system will allow wages to be configured to regional groupings. The publications can be viewed or downloaded at <https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=417>. Data for the sub-state regions has been compiled and the Regional Reviews for these areas will be completed early in PY2014.

[Labor Availability Study](#)

In PY13, WIG staff conducted analysis of a study to determine labor availability in six communities of northeast Nebraska. The study was commissioned by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research was contracted to help write the survey, determine sample sizes, print and mail the surveys, and do the data entry for completed surveys. NDED contracted with NDOL WIG staff to help with survey development, defining survey areas, data cleaning and analysis, and writing of the final reports. This study was funded by NDED, and thus helped to leverage LMI-WIG funding. The final reports were well received and there are plans to conduct more studies in the future. This will help support the partnership between NDOL and NDED, and also helped to establish a partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research.

[Nebraska Workforce Trends](#)

Nebraska Workforce Trends is a monthly publication filled with information about the economy and labor market in Nebraska. This publication is sent to approximately 300 subscribers each month with additional readers logging onto the website to read each issue. The subscriber list for Nebraska Workforce Trends includes the state's senators, Workforce Investment Board members, and community leaders, economic developers, state educators, and professionals from the business community. Issues of Nebraska Workforce Trends can be viewed at <https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=417>.

[College Wage Match Graduate Outcomes Publications](#)

Results from the public postsecondary Graduate Outcomes project give a picture of recent graduates' earnings, industry employment, and work location. This publication also includes information about which fields of study produce graduates most likely to be employed in Nebraska, which fields of study produce the highest wages, in which Nebraska counties graduates are employed, and demographic characteristics of graduates.

The publication includes sections for all six of Nebraska's Community Colleges, all three State Colleges and two campuses in the University of Nebraska system. The information is used by career center case managers to assist people in making informed training decisions. The information is also used by Chambers of Commerce, economic developers and the institutions for program planning. The Graduate Outcomes in Nebraska publications can be found at <http://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=417>.

[Nebraska Occupation and Industry Projections](#)

The Occupational and Industry Projections for Nebraska publication, with an in-depth analysis of long-term (2010-2020) industry and occupational projections information, was released on the LMI website in October 2013. Several tables and graphs are included for each type of projections along with written

narrative. This narrative gives more details of occupations or industries as well as regional highlights. This publication can be found at <http://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=417>.

[Regional map project](#)

In PY13 Nebraska gained a third Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), Grand Island. This prompted the reexamination of the economic regions used for collecting and analyzing LMI data. Grand Island was part of the Central region and removing these counties from this region altered the regions continuity.

The OnTheMap application from the US Census Bureau was the main tool utilized in the review of existing Nebraska regions. Specifically, the “Destination” analysis was used to determine where workers living in each county in Nebraska were working. This data was used to create a series of maps with mapping and graphic design software. Once all the commuting patterns were diagrammed the counties could be linked visually and then analyzed more specifically to redraw the regions. By following the commuting patterns, the counties most connected were easily grouped into regions.

Creating a visual representation of the county-to-county commuting enabled the NDOL stakeholders to make informed decisions in establishing new regions for the state. After reviewing a variety of resources including geographical boundaries from other agencies and demographic data, the maps featuring the LED data ended up being the top resource in this project. These maps were shared with other departments within our agency who also found the information valuable to their programs.

[Licensed Occupations in Nebraska](#)

In addition to providing the updated licensing files to the National Crosswalk Service Center, a publication containing the licensing information was released in June 2013. This information will be updated in PY14. This publication includes occupational descriptions, licensing and certification requirements, contact information, fee information, renewal information and licensing statistics. This publication can be found at <https://networks.nebraska.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/Licensed-Final.pdf>.

[Industry Cluster Dashboard](#)

The Nebraska Industry Cluster Dashboard is a product of the Nebraska Department of Labor Office of Labor Market Information which publishes aggregate data on wages and employment for the 12 industry clusters identified in the 2010 Study Conducted by Battelle and a number of Nebraska State Agencies. In order to provide the most recent possible wages, the EDS system is used to update the OES survey data. <https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=594>

[Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math \(STEM\) Occupations Dashboard/Poster](#)

Long-term occupational projections data was combined with STEM occupational classifications from O*NET and used to create a poster highlighting occupations in each of the eight identified STEM disciplines. The STEM Dashboard file provides an overview and comparison of STEM and non-STEM occupations in Nebraska and Nationwide. This file can be printed as a one page handout and provides a quick look into the data. The other eight Excel files provide detailed data on the occupations contained within each of the STEM disciplines. Data is provided for Nebraska and Nationwide in two separate tabs. In order to provide the most recent possible wages, the EDS system is used to update the OES survey data. The dashboards and the poster can be found online at: <https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=621>

[Career Ladder Posters](#)

The Career Ladder Posters are designed to educate individuals on possible career paths. The six posters correspond with the Career Clusters model adopted by the Nebraska Department of Education. The occupations in these posters are stratified by education level and provide expected wages. This tool is useful for jobseeker customers in making decisions as to what type of career they would like to pursue and can be used to assist students with career planning. In order to provide the most recent possible wages, the EDS system is used to update the OES survey data. The posters can be found online at: <https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=417>

[Layoff Map](#)

This quarterly report includes layoff notification to Rapid Response and WARN. Layoffs are displayed geographically by size and industry to provide a clear picture of the layoff climate in Nebraska. The report also includes layoff events and number of affected workers by industry, event month, and type of layoff (closure or layoff). This map is frequently used by the SWIB and other community planners. The map is available on the NDOL website at

<http://www.dol.nebraska.gov/employers/dislocated/LayoffMap.pdf>.

iv. Customer consultations

[American Society for Training and Development](#)

The LMI Administrator is an ad hoc member of the Lincoln chapter of the American Society for Training and Development. The LMI Administrator provides them with labor market information resources and consults with them on their needs for new products and services.

[University of Nebraska Medical Center](#)

The LMI Administrator attended meetings held by the University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health concerning Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants Workforce Data needs. These meetings centered on the need to identify the future needs of health professionals for emergency preparedness and formulation of health policies to support the recruitment and retention needs of Nebraska's cities and rural communities. These meetings have enabled dialog between LMI and the UNMC on data needs for their program efforts.

[Occupational Profiles](#)

The occupational profiles provide a career overview of an occupation in Nebraska. Each profile features general information about the occupation including knowledge, skills, and abilities from O*NET combined with EDS wages and the projected job outlook from long-term occupational projections. The profiles are also color coded to coordinate with the Nebraska Department of Education career cluster model of occupational classification. This project originated from request by local Employment and Training staff for a handout to be given to high school students to accompany a talk by a professional in the field. They were well received and more occupations were added as requested through the grant year. There are now a total of nine and can be found online at <https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=417>.

[EducationQuest Foundation Meeting](#)

In February WIG and WIA staff met with several staff with the EducationQuest Foundation to discuss several LMI publications and products. The EducationQuest Foundation is a nonprofit organization with a

mission to improve access to higher education in Nebraska. They were particularly interested in incorporating the Career Ladder Posters into the products they already create both online and in print. They also asked staff to present at their annual conference on LMI career education products and have been instrumental in helping to disperse LMI products to educational staff and students through the state.

[Nebraska Career Tour Videos](#)

NDOL partnered with the Nebraska Department of Education and Economic Development to create a series of career videos. Each video is classified by the Department of Education career cluster model and includes interviews with employees, and business representatives discussing works requirements, education levels, and salary and job prospects. Throughout the videos, a series of “pop-ups” appear containing LMI data such as EDS wages and projections data. The videos can be found online at <http://www.necareertours.com/>

[H3 – High Wage, High Demand, High Skill Occupations](#)

Last year, WIG staff assisted in the maintenance of the H3 site. This site is designed to show high wage, high demand, and high skill (H3) occupations. The site was developed in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education to show occupations with the top numbers of job openings from NEworks, EDS occupational wages, projections, educational programs, and licensing information. Reports by educational cluster, region of the state, and industry cluster can be viewed and downloaded. Much of the data in the H3 site is updated directly from the WID. Other updates and enhancements have been put in hold due to limited funds from partner entities. The H3 web site address is <http://h3.ne.gov/H3/>.

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v. Activities undertaken to meet customer needs

State Workforce Investment Board Presentations

LMI has continued to be incorporated into the State WIB meetings on a regular basis. WIG staff has been invited to update the Board on current labor market conditions and give project updates at full Board meetings. This gives the Board an opportunity to understand current trends in the state's labor market, as well as ask questions that help them to make more informed decisions. Topics presented included using NEworks, unemployment and labor force data, Current Employment Statistics (CES), projections, and education completer data, Rapid Response, Labor Availability Survey and WDQI grant updates.

Typically, in prior years WIG staff would provide a power-point presentation containing LMI information about population, unemployment, wages, income, poverty, education and occupational projections for metro and non-metro areas of the state to the Nebraska Workforce Investment Boards (WIB). In PY13, the WIB indicated that they wanted the same information provided in a different format. WIG staff decided to create a "dashboard" using Prezi. Prezi is cloud-based presentation software that allows a presenter to create dynamic presentations that visually explain data in ways that power point is incapable of doing. Because it is cloud based, presentations are able to be directly embedded into websites. This presentation is available at <http://neworks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=779>.

State and Local Workforce Investment Area Plans

Staff provided the Greater Lincoln and Greater Nebraska Workforce Investment areas with information for their 2014-2017 plan including: Current and projected trends of the local area economy, industries and occupations; Workforce skills and knowledge individuals need to find current and future employment in the local area along with evidence these skills and knowledge are employer identified and necessary for economic growth; and Characteristics of the local area population including those from racial, ethnic, linguistic groups, older persons and individuals with disabilities.

The LMI portion of the Limited English Proficiency plan for Employment & Training was provided by WIG staff. It included maps and demographic information from the American Community Survey

Local Workforce Investment Board Presentations

In August, a WIG staff member gave a labor market update to the Greater Lincoln WIB Operations Committee.

Staff presented to the Greater Nebraska Workforce Investment Board at their meeting in Grand Island in October. General LMI information on Nebraska and the Greater Nebraska area of the state was presented. The WIB was also updated on current projects LMI has been working on such as the labor shed study and the data warehouse.

Labor Availability Study

In PY13, WIG staff analyzed data for a study of northeast Nebraska to determine labor availability in six communities. The study was commissioned by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research was contracted to help write the survey, determine sample sizes, print and mail the surveys, and do the data entry for completed surveys. NDED contracted with NDOL WIG staff to help with survey development, survey areas, data cleaning and analysis, and writing of the final reports. This study was funded by NDED, and thus helped to leverage

LMI-WIG funding. The final reports were well received and a second labor availability study for the Lincoln and Omaha metro areas was started in PY13. There are also plans to conduct more studies in the future. These projects will help support the partnership between NDOL and NDED, and also helped to establish a partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research.

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<http://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=417>.

[Elevator Maps](#)

In December 2013, WIG staff were contacted by the NDOL Office of Safety for assistance on a project. Using data provided by the Office of Safety, WIG staff used GIS mapping software to create a map of locations of elevators and escalators in Nebraska. This map will be useful to the Office of Safety in planning inspection schedules and streamlining inspector's routes.

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[PMP Product and Process Innovation Committee](#)

During the May 2013 PMP Summit in Nashville several sub-committees were created. One WIG staff member volunteered to serve on the PMP Product and Process Innovation Committee. This subcommittee focuses on technical matters related to projections outputs and the processes recommended by the PMP to develop said outputs. The goal of this committee is to provide guidance for states to create the highest quality and most relevant projections data for customers. Since then staff has participated in several conference call meetings of this subgroups and volunteered to help test new functions of the projections software.

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[Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math \(STEM\) Occupations Dashboard/Poster](#)

Long-term occupational projections data was combined with STEM occupational classifications from O*NET and used to create a poster highlighting occupations in each of the eight identified STEM disciplines. The STEM Dashboard file provides an overview and comparison of STEM and non-STEM occupations in Nebraska and Nationwide. This file can be printed as a one page handout and provides a quick look into the data. The other eight Excel files provide detailed data on the occupations contained within each of the STEM disciplines. Data is provided for Nebraska and Nationwide in two separate tabs. In order to provide the most recent possible wages, the EDS system is used to update the OES survey data. The dashboards and the poster can be found online at: <https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=621>

[Career Ladder Posters](#)

The Career Ladder Posters are designed to educate individuals on possible career paths. The six posters correspond with the Career Clusters model adopted by the Nebraska Department of Education. The occupations in these posters are stratified by education level and provide expected wages. This tool is useful for jobseeker customers in making decisions as to what type of career they would like to pursue and can be used to assist students with career planning. In order to provide the most recent possible wages, the EDS system is used to update the OES survey data. The posters can be found online at: <https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=417>.

[Presentations and Trainings](#)

When wages are used in presentations and publications the EDS wages are used. We have found that the business community is more receptive to the EDS OES wages because the data is more current than the OES survey wage data. We feel that updated estimates are why the wage data is one of the leading data items requested from LMI.

In July 2013, staff presented career planning information in a hands on workshop to eight young people in the Lincoln WIA youth program.

In August, WIG staff presented career planning resources at three Rapid Response sessions for a large layoff of mental health employees in the Lincoln Workforce Investment Area.

In August, staff presented two sessions at the Center for Public Affairs Research (CPAR) Data User Conference in Omaha. CPAR is our state Census data center. One presentation was an overview of the

LMI, BLS, and Census LED websites. The second session was an interactive computer training on using the LED extraction tool and the OnTheMap application the LED website.

Also in August, WIG staff presented career planning resources and the LMI NEworks pages to Employment Services staff members at the Lincoln Career Center.

In October, one staff member presented NEworks Occupational Profile for Vocational Rehabilitation placement staff via video conference. Eight people attended in person and 19 others participated from their respective locations.

In October, staff did a small training on the NEworks LMI and H3 websites to a small group of new employees in the agencies unemployment insurance section.

In November, staff did a presentation on career forecasting for junior high through high school students at the Explore IT! Career fair in Beatrice. This youth career expo was sponsored by the Beatrice Area Chamber. Staff also helped at the booth with the Beatrice career center staff. Career Ladder and STEM occupations posters were handed out to interested students, parents, and teachers and were well received. Over 330 Southeast Nebraska students attended the event.

In December, two staff members went to Norfolk and Columbus for presentations/training on LMI data and the Census. Both groups had a mix of Career Center staff, local economic developers, and business leaders.

In December and April, staff presented labor market information resources to Bellevue University Master's in Public Administration students. This included; NEworks, ACInet, O*NET, and state of Nebraska employment.

In January, staff gave an hour long overview of LMI to Employment and Training virtual service unit (VSU) staff as part of training for new staff and a refresher for existing staff.

In March, staff presented "Hot Jobs in Your Future" to 164 high school students during a career fair at Midland University in Fremont.

Staff presented at the Annual EducationQuest College Access Symposium held in April in Lincoln. The presentation was titled "The Nebraska Department of Labor: Your Source for Career Tools and Information" and highlighted several products and publications produced by DOL. Highlighted products included the Career Ladder Posters, STEM occupations products, H3 occupations, NE Learn, and the Graduate Outcomes publication. The Symposium is attended by educators and career counselors from across the state from middle and high schools. The session was attended by over 50 people.

In May, staff presented NEworks, wages, projections, college wage match and other LMI to 20 human resources staff members from the state Health and Human Services department.

In May, staff gave a presentation to staff at ResCare Workforce Services on LMI career products and other websites useful in career planning. ResCare Workforce Services are a contractor of HHS and work with those on TANF to find employment.

Presentation Database

The number of attendees is tracked in the LMI presentation database along with the type of audience and number of sessions presented.

Presentations Given July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014	Sessions	Attendees
Businesses	1	300
Case Manager	2	37
Economic Developer		
Job Seekers	3	59
NDOL	3	37
Other	4	177
Other Government		
Student	4	538
WIB	4	94
Total	19	1,207

LMI Support of State Economic Development Initiatives (Data Requests)

Labor Market Information staff has a good working relationship with WIB members, economic development entities, and career center managers. WIG staff has a comprehensive knowledge of LMI data and fulfill many of the requests for information from these groups. WIG staff fulfilled 64 requests for data from career center managers and staff, constituting 31 hours of staff time.

WIG staff spent a total of 369 hours of staff time fulfilling 401 direct requests for data from businesses, chambers of commerce, economic developers, job seekers, legislators, media, NDOL career centers, other NDOL departments, non-profit organizations, other government agencies, private individuals, schools and colleges, students and state WIBs.

Data requests that come in by phone or email are tracked on a database that was designed by LMI. The database is updated manually, and therefore the figures below represent a lower boundary for a reasonable estimate of requests fulfilled. Information on data requests are recorded in the shared database. Over time, the number of phone/email requests has gone down and the number of Internet users has risen. This year, there was a 24% increase in the number of data requests and a 21% increase in staff time spent filling the data requests. Aggregate information from the request database is displayed below.

Type of Information Requested	Number
Affirmative Action	1
Benefits Report	2
Census	47
CES Employment	2
CES Wages	2
CPI/COLA	3
Commuting Patterns	1
H3 Occupations	20

Industry Projections	7
Job Seeker Assistance	5
LAUS/UI Rates	31
Laborforce/Workforce	25
Labor Laws	1
LED	8
LMI Regional Review	3
Layoffs/Rapid Response	1
Licensed and Certified Occupations	1
Mass Layoffs	1
Minimum Wage	3
Minorities	4
NAICS Code	164
Occupational Projections	27
OES Wages & Employment	71
ONET	3
Prevailing/D-B Wages	1
Projections	4
QCEW Employment	31
QCEW Wages	20
Supply/Demand	8
Training Related	90
UI Stats / UI in Brief	15
Wage Match	22
Other	107
NEworks	33
Other Web	11
Total	775

vi. New tools and resources

Labor Availability Study

In PY13, WIG staff participated in a study of northeast Nebraska to determine labor availability in six communities. The study was commissioned by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research was contracted to help write the survey, determine sample sizes, print and mail the surveys, and do the data entry for completed surveys. NDED contracted with NDOL WIG staff to help with survey development, survey areas, data cleaning and analysis, and writing of the final reports. This study was funded by NDED, and thus helped to leverage LMI-WIG funding. The final reports were well received and there are plans to conduct more studies in the future. This will help support the partnership between NDOL and NDED, and also helped to establish a partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research.

Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) rounds two and four grants

During PY13 WDQI data warehouse had LMI data loaded into a test environment and staff are beginning to answer data requests from the warehouse. Several colleges provided graduate test files and reports are being tested. Other data in the warehouse include the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Enhanced Quarterly Unemployment Insurance file, Department of Motor Vehicles matched to unemployment insurance wage records, Estimates Delivery System and Occupational Employment Statistics wages, unemployment insurance wage records and benefits. Nebraska's employment and training files will be added in PY14. Three staff members attended training in the use of the warehouse software.

[WIB Dashboard](#)

Typically, in prior years WIG staff would provide a power-point presentation containing LMI information about population, unemployment, wages, income, poverty, education and occupational projections for metro and non-metro areas of the state to the Nebraska Workforce Investment Boards (WIB). In PY13, the WIB indicated that they wanted the same information provided in a different format. WIG staff decided to create a "dashboard" using Prezi. Prezi is cloud-based presentation software that allows a presenter to create dynamic presentations that visually explain data in ways that power point is incapable of doing. Because it is cloud based, presentations are able to be directly embedded into websites. This presentation is available at <http://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=779>.

[Elevator Maps](#)

In December 2013, WIG staff were contacted by the NDOL Office of Safety for assistance on a project. Using data provided by the Office of Safety, WIG staff used GIS mapping software to create a map of locations of elevators and escalators in Nebraska. This map will be useful to the Office of Safety in planning inspection schedules and streamlining inspector's routes.

[Occupational Profiles](#)

The occupational profiles provide a career overview of an occupation in Nebraska. Each profile features general information about the occupation including knowledge, skills, and abilities from O*NET combined with EDS wages and the projected job outlook from long-term occupational projections. The profiles are also color coded to coordinate with the Nebraska Department of Education career cluster model of occupational classification. This project originated from request by local Employment and Training staff for a handout to be given to high school students to accompany a talk by a professional in the field. They were well received and more occupations were added as requested through the grant year. There are now a total of nine and can be found online at <https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=417>.

[Regional map project](#)

In PY13 Nebraska gained a third Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), Grand Island. This prompted the reexamination of the economic regions used for collecting and analyzing LMI data. Grand Island was part of the Central region and removing these counties from this region altered the regions continuity.

The OnTheMap application from the US Census Bureau was the main tool utilized in the review of existing Nebraska regions. Specifically, the "Destination" analysis was used to determine where workers living in each county in Nebraska were working. This data was used to create a series of maps with mapping and graphic design software. Once all the commuting patterns were diagrammed the counties could be linked visually and then analyzed more specifically to redraw the regions. By following the commuting patterns, the counties most connected were easily grouped into regions.

Creating a visual representation of the county-to-county commuting enabled the NDOL stakeholders to make informed decisions in establishing new regions for the state. After reviewing a variety of resources including geographical boundaries from other agencies and demographic data, the maps featuring the LED data ended up being the top resource in this project. These maps were shared with other departments within our agency who also found the information valuable to their programs.

[Nebraska Career Tour Videos](#)

NDOL partnered with the Nebraska Department of Education and Economic Development to create a series of career videos. Each video is classified by the Department of Education career cluster model and includes interviews with employees, and business representatives discussing works requirements, education levels, and salary and job prospects. Throughout the videos, a series of “pop-ups” appear containing LMI data such as EDS wages and projections data. The videos can be found online at <http://www.necareertours.com/>

vii. Efforts to create and support partnerships and collaborations

[Labor Availability Study](#)

In PY13, WIG staff conducted analysis for a study of northeast Nebraska to determine labor availability in six communities. The study was commissioned by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research was contracted to help write the survey, determine sample sizes, print and mail the surveys, and do the data entry for completed surveys. NDED contracted with NDOL WIG staff to help with survey development, survey areas, data cleaning and analysis, and writing of the final reports. This study was funded by NDED, and thus helped to leverage LMI-WI funding. The final reports were well received and there are plans to conduct more studies in the future. This will help support the partnership between NDOL and NDED, and also helped to establish a partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research.

[Nebraska Partner Council](#)

WIG staff are participating in the Nebraska Partner Council that was organized for the purpose of strengthening cross agency partnerships that focus on workforce solutions to ensure subpopulations are being afforded quality work opportunities and employers have a diverse and ready workforce. The Council includes all WIA mandated partners as well as other interested agencies.

[Elevator Maps](#)

In December 2013, WIG staff were contacted by the NDOL Office of Safety for assistance on a project. Using data provided by the Office of Safety, WIG staff used GIS mapping software to create a map of locations of elevators and escalators in Nebraska. This map will be useful to the Office of Safety in planning inspection schedules and streamlining inspector’s routes.

[Workforce Data Quality Initiative \(WDQI\) rounds two and four grants](#)

In June of 2012, Nebraska received a Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) round two grant. This grant was leveraged with an unemployment insurance data warehouse grant. The grant will enable WIG staff to track graduates community college, state college and University graduates over time. WIG staff have coordinated with Nebraska Department of Education staff on including Adult Education, Career and

Technical Education and Vocational Rehabilitation in the data warehouse. WIG staff are also working with the state SLDS team on methods to link the SLDS and WDQI data warehouses. Nebraska will also be including WIA, TAA, Wagner Peysner and Veterans program partners in the data warehouse. MOU's are in process for including Registered Apprenticeship and the whole University of Nebraska system. Other partners being invited to participate in the warehouse include Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Native American WIA, Veterans Administration, and the Department of Corrections. Nebraska is also partnering with the National Bureau of Economic Research for a study that they are conducting for the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation. Two staff members attended the March SLDS/WDQI conference in Washington D.C. On June 27, 2014 Nebraska received notice that NDOL had been awarded a round four WDQI grant. The grant was written by WIG staff in collaboration with SLDS staff. This round four grant will allow for continued coordination with the SLDS, expanding the number of partners in the data warehouse, producing additional reports and displaying college graduate outcomes in H3 and in the SLDS. The Departments of Education and Labor signed a letter of commitment to work jointly on the SLDS and WDQI warehouses so that data can be linked.

[American Society for Training and Development](#)

The LMI Administrator is a member of the Lincoln chapter of the American Society for Training and Development providing them with labor market information resources and consulting with them on their needs for new products and services.

[University of Nebraska Medical Center](#)

The LMI Administrator attended meetings held by the University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Public Health concerning Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants Workforce Data needs. These meetings centered on the need to identify the future needs of health professionals for emergency preparedness and formulation of health policies to support the recruitment and retention needs of Nebraska's cities and rural communities.

[Occupational Profiles](#)

The occupational profiles provide a career overview of an occupation in Nebraska. Each profile features general information about the occupation including knowledge, skills, and abilities from O*NET combined with EDS wages and the projected job outlook from long-term occupational projections. The profiles are also color coded to coordinate with the Nebraska Department of Education career cluster model of occupational classification. This project originated from request by local Employment and Training staff for a handout to be given to high school students to accompany a talk by a professional in the field. They were well received and more occupations were added as requested through the grant year. There are now a total of nine and can be found online at <https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=417>.

[EducationQuest Foundation Meeting](#)

In February WIG and WIA staff met with several staff with the EducationQuest Foundation to discuss several LMI publications and products. The EducationQuest Foundation is a nonprofit organization with a mission to improve access to higher education in Nebraska. They were particularly interested in incorporating the Career Ladder Posters into the products they already create both online and in print.

They also asked staff to present at their annual conference on LMI career education products and have been instrumental in helping to disperse LMI products to educational staff and students through the state.

PMP Product and Process Innovation Committee

During the May 2013 PMP Summit in Nashville several sub-committees were created. One WIG staff member volunteered to serve on the PMP Product and Process Innovation Committee. This subcommittee focuses on technical matters related to projections outputs and the processes recommended by the PMP to develop said outputs. The goal of this committee is to provide guidance for states to create the highest quality and most relevant projections data for customers. Since then staff has participated in several conference call meeting of this subgroups and volunteered to help test new functions of the projections software.

Nebraska Career Tour Videos

NDOL partnered with the Nebraska Department of Education and Economic Development to create a series of career videos. Each video is classified by the Department of Education career cluster model and includes interviews with employees, and business representatives discussing works requirements, education levels, and salary and job prospects. Throughout the videos, a series of “pop-ups” appear containing LMI data such as EDS wages and projections data. The videos can be found online at <http://www.necareertours.com/>

H3 – High Wage, High Demand, High Skill Occupations

Last year, WIG staff assisted in the maintenance of the H3 site. This site is designed to show high wage, high demand, and high skill (H3) occupations. The site was developed in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education to show occupations with the top numbers of job openings from NEworks, EDS occupational wages, projections, educational programs, and licensing information. Reports by educational cluster, region of the state, and industry cluster can be viewed and downloaded. Much of the data in the H3 site is updated directly from the WID. Other updates and enhancements have been put in hold due to limited funds from partner entities. The H3 web site address is <http://h3.ne.gov/H3/>.

Social Media

NDOL decided to coordinate efforts on social media platforms across the agency to create one account for the entire agency per platform. A Social Media Committee was created with representatives from each department to help facilitate the process. One WIG staff member is on this committee. The agency is actively using Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. LMI topics include monthly press releases, Nebraska Workforce Trends, and local articles on topics of interest.

WIG staff also sat in on a conference call with the Employment and Training Social Media Work Group. The purpose of this was to help LMI and E&T work together on social media content for the agency since each of these parts of the agency have content that can overlap or works well to combine.

The Twitter account can be followed at http://twitter.com/NE_DOL. The Facebook is located at <https://www.facebook.com/Nebraska.DOL>. The YouTube page can found at <http://www.youtube.com/user/NEDeptOfLabor>.

[Industry Cluster Dashboard](#)

The Nebraska Industry Cluster Dashboard is a product of the Nebraska Department of Labor Office of Labor Market Information which publishes aggregate data on wages and employment for the 12 industry clusters identified in the 2010 Study Conducted by Battelle and a number of Nebraska State Agencies. In order to provide the most recent possible wages, the EDS system is used to update the OES survey data. <https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=594>

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[Career Ladder Posters](#)

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[Rapid Response Common Survey](#)

Labor Market Information and the Rapid Response unit are participating in the Region V common Rapid Response survey work group. The intent is for LMI to be able to add additional information to the survey results in order to make the data more useful for economic developers and to develop a common data set that could be used for economic development across state lines.

[Central Community College Institutional Research Office](#)

LMI is partnering with Central Community College to obtain graduates' Social Security Numbers for wage matches. The wages are matched with WRIS and FEDES in addition to matching with Nebraska wage records for WIA consumer reports. WRIS2 and FEDES was utilized for postsecondary Career and Technical Education federal performance reporting along with Nebraska's wage records. The data has been added into the WDQI data warehouse.

viii. Activities to leverage LMI-WI funding

[Labor Availability Study](#)

In PY13, WIG staff participated in a study of northeast Nebraska to determine labor availability in six communities. The study was commissioned by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research was contracted to help write the survey,

determine sample sizes, print and mail the surveys, and do the data entry for completed surveys. NDED contracted with NDOL WIG staff to help with survey development, survey areas, data cleaning and analysis, and writing of the final reports. This study was funded by NDED, and thus helped to leverage LMI-WI funding. The final reports were well received and there are plans to conduct more studies in the future. This will help support the partnership between NDOL and NDED, and also helped to establish a partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research.

[Workforce Data Quality Initiative \(WDQI\) rounds two and four grants](#)

The Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) round two and four grants are enabling LMI to leverage workforce information funding with WDQI grant funds. Graduate outcomes will be expanded to track graduates over time and to display the data on an interactive page on the H3 website. Additional research and reports will be able to be produced from the new partner data in the warehouse.

[EducationQuest Foundation Meeting](#)

In February WIG and WIA staff met with several staff with the EducationQuest Foundation to discuss several LMI publications and products. The EducationQuest Foundation is a nonprofit organization with a mission to improve access to higher education in Nebraska. They were particularly interested in incorporating the Career Ladder Posters into the products they already create both online and in print. They also asked staff to present at their annual conference on LMI career education products and have been instrumental in helping to disperse LMI products to educational staff and students through the state.

[H2A Wage Survey](#)

WIG staff conducted two surveys of temporary/seasonal agricultural workers to determine prevailing wage figures for the H2A foreign workers program. This survey was conducted on behalf of the Foreign Labor Certification Board on a fee-for-service basis. The first survey, conducted in the fall of 2013, was sent by mail to 664 employers to assess the standard wage and benefits offered to temporary and seasonal agricultural employees. The second survey, conducted in the spring of 2014, focused on custom combine related activities. It was also conducted by mail and was sent to 56 employers. Results were sent to the Foreign Labor Certification Board.

[H3 – High Wage, High Demand, High Skill Occupations](#)

Last year, WIG staff assisted in the maintenance of the H3 site. This site is designed to show high wage, high demand, and high skill (H3) occupations. The site was developed in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education to show occupations with the top numbers of job openings from NEworks, EDS occupational wages, projections, educational programs, and licensing information. Reports by educational cluster, region of the state, and industry cluster can be viewed and downloaded. Much of the data in the H3 site is updated directly from the WID. Other updates and enhancements have been put in hold due to limited funds from partner entities. The H3 web site address is <http://h3.ne.gov/H3/>.

[ix. Recommendations to ETA for changes and improvements to WIGS requirements](#)

[Change two year projections to five year projections. This is something requested by our customers.](#) The new WIOA calls for more labor market information to be used in the planning process and in working with clients. Nebraska recommends the National and Regional offices become more knowledgeable

about labor market information at the state level. There will be a lot of emphasis placed on the plan, performance reporting, and other aspects of the WIOA. ETA National and Regional staff should pay attention to and work with state LMI Offices to identify best practices and coordinate efforts to assist states in meeting the demands for LMI. Continued support for the Projections Managing Partnership (PMP), Analyst Resource Center (ARC) and Estimates Delivery System (EDS) is vital for states to meet the requirements of WIOA. ETA has taken steps in the PY 2014 WIG to place emphasis on EDS' role in the LMI system. Nebraska recommends that ETA place emphasis on the importance of these programs by setting up ongoing appropriations within ETA to fund them. This would allow for long range planning and development to improve the important information these systems support for the WIOA.