

**Nevada Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation  
Research and Analysis Bureau  
U.S. DOL-ETA Workforce Information Core Products and Services Grant  
Annual Report for Program Year 2005  
(July 1, 2005 – December 31, 2006)**

Nevada continued its rapid economic growth during program year 2005. The state produced jobs at an average rate of 5.9 percent over the 12-month period ending June 30, 2006, nearly four times the national average of 1.5 percent. The statewide unemployment rate averaged less than 4 percent during the program year, keeping labor markets tight.

As in recent years, about three-fourths of all new jobs in the state were in the Las Vegas area. However, other areas of the state have fared well economically. The growth rate in the Reno-Sparks metropolitan area averaged more than 5 percent in the second half of the program year, while a strong gold and copper mining industry has provided an economic boost in many of the state's rural areas.

Since the end of the last economic downturn in January 2002, the construction sector has provided nearly one-fourth of Nevada's employment gains. Although both the U.S. and Nevada housing markets slowed in the latter part of program year 2005, the continued influx of new residents into the state should keep demand for housing at a high level.

The ongoing economic boom has put considerable pressure on the state's labor markets. Qualified workers, especially skilled craftsmen in the construction trades, are at a premium. Nevada's uniquely dynamic economy, coupled with low unemployment in much of the nation, makes it difficult to attract a sufficiently skilled workforce to keep up with demand. Nevada JobConnect, the state's workforce investment system, is working to meet these challenges.

The Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation's (DETR's) Research and Analysis Bureau is focused on meeting the needs of Nevada's workforce investment system. The following report summarizes the Research and Analysis Bureau's (R&A's) workforce information activities supported under this grant.

**Populate the ALMIS Database with State Data:**

There were no significant variations from the annual plan for this item. Nevada updated and maintained the ALMIS Database. This included the following activities:

- Updated the ALMIS Database with new monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, annual and biennial data as it became available.

- Updated the ALMIS Database with revised historical employment and labor force data.
- Added wage survey data for a new West Central Counties sub-state area.
- Completed the Licensed Occupation Survey and submitted the data for ACINet.

In addition to the database update activities, staff participated in the ALMIS Database Workgroup and a new staff member assigned to ALMIS attended ALMIS Database training.

**Produce and Disseminate Industry and Occupational Employment Projections:**

There was little variation from the grant plan. Long term industry and occupational projections for 2004-2014 were completed for Nevada, its MSA's and Balance of State area. In addition, short term occupational and industry projections for 2005-2007 were completed for Nevada. Projections information was submitted to the ETA-sponsored workgroup as directed. We continue to improve our short term, sub-state industry projections capabilities and utilize the results in responding to customer requests.

New projections data are being disseminated via the Workforce Informer web site and are being incorporated in the Nevada Career Information System's annual release. In addition, Nevada's brochures and publications are in the process of being updated with the new information by the end of our grant period.

Related projections activities included participating in the beta testing of the projections programs when changes were made and serving as a resource for other states with questions when requested.

**Provide Occupational and Career Information Products for Public Use:**

Nevada continued to provide customer-oriented occupational and career information products. Information products included:

- Nevada's state and county LED data published electronically on the Nevada Workforce Informer web site.
- A report to introduce state workforce boards and other customers to Local Employment Dynamics (LED) data.
- Specific LED data provided in response to customer data requests.
- Monthly publication of the *Nevada Economy in Brief*.
- *Planning for a Bright Future* brochures provided to thousands of job seekers and career fair attendees.
- Geographic Information System (GIS) reports provided on an as-requested basis.

- Occupational projections information incorporated into our informational products.
- Updated Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) wage information made available via the Workforce Informer web site.
- Custom wage information provided in response to customer special requests using the Estimate Delivery System.
- Occupational skills, outlook, employment, wage and licensing information made available through the Nevada Career Information System (NCIS).
- Demand occupations and related brochures are in the process of being updated with new projections data.

The Job Vacancy Survey was completed and the output was reviewed extensively. Nevada's results proved to be statistically invalid. Efforts were undertaken to explain and correct the invalid results but this did not adequately account for the results in question and they were not published.

**Provide the Workforce Information and Support Required by State and Local Workforce Investment Boards:**

Staff regularly attended the Workforce Investment Board meetings and staff have responded to all information requests from the boards. R&A has a senior economist assigned as the point person to provide information services to the two local boards in Las Vegas and Reno. This contact allows for gathering regular feedback from the boards on the usefulness of our products and assuring a prompt response to their requests.

R&A's self-service, Internet-based workforce information systems (Workforce Informer and the Nevada Career Information System) provide the WIB's and Nevada JobConnect offices with consistent informational access. R&A staff provide full support for these products in the form of companion brochures and training.

**Maintain and Enhance Electronic State Workforce Information Delivery Systems:**

The Research and Analysis Bureau continues to enhance its Internet-based workforce information products and the plan goals are being met. Workforce Informer and the Nevada Career Information System are available at [www.nevadaworkforce.com](http://www.nevadaworkforce.com).

Workforce Informer delivers current and historical workforce information series along with data analysis capabilities, downloadable spreadsheets, articles and publications. Updated workforce information products, such as the monthly *Nevada Economy in Brief* publication, are posted regularly as they become available. In addition, many economic indicators are posted monthly to the site to insure our customers have easy access to companion information that will give

them a more complete picture of the Nevada economy and labor market. R&A will be updating Workforce Informer with new features as they are made available from the developer. One capability scheduled to be released by the developer is the ability to search for employers by the occupations they employ. This will be a powerful feature for jobseekers when it is released.

The Nevada Career Information System (NCIS) contains occupationally based career, workforce and educational information in an easy-to-use format. Information in the NCIS is updated annually and as software enhancements are provided by the developer. NCIS also contains tools to help individuals make occupational choices based on their needs and preferences. Two of these tools are electronic versions of the O\*Net Interest Profiler and the O\*Net Work Importance Locator. In addition to being available to individuals, the NCIS is used by nearly 400 sites throughout Nevada to assist their clients and students with career planning and research. These sites include Nevada JobConnect offices, school districts, community colleges, universities, community-based organizations, private businesses and governmental agencies.

R&A staff provide feedback to the developers of our electronic products through the Informer and CIS Consortia to communicate the needs of our customers. Demand for R&A's electronic workforce information delivery systems has been fairly steady and with these two products R&A is able to meet the needs of a wide variety of customer groups and to allow our customers to be more self-sufficient.

**Support State Workforce Information Training Activities:**

R&A economists provide assistance on a daily basis to individuals, businesses and others seeking workforce information via phone and e-mail. This support allows our customers to better understand the available information and put it to effective use for their specific needs.

R&A staff also provide presentations on the Nevada economy when requested and provide training workshops in the use of our workforce and career information products. During the program year, 18 Workforce Informer and NCIS workshops were offered throughout the state to Nevada JobConnect staff. The goal of these workshops was to enable staff to efficiently use Informer and NCIS in helping their clients to find the information they need to achieve their business and/or employment objectives. Planned training goals for this item are being met.

**Customer Satisfaction with Workforce Information Products and Services:**

Nevada is committed to fostering open communication with our customers and to using their feedback to improve our products and services. To that end, R&A maintains electronic customer satisfaction and feedback mechanisms for both

the Workforce Informer and Nevada Career Information System web sites. Customers can submit their feedback anytime via an electronic survey, e-mail or telephone. In addition to the ongoing feedback mechanisms that are available, specific customer satisfaction surveys are conducted.

Targeted surveys were conducted of economic development agencies, chambers of commerce and other public and private economic research entities to gauge satisfaction with Nevada’s workforce information products and the Workforce Informer web site. 100% of the private and public economic research entities and 85% of the economic development agencies and chambers of commerce that responded to the surveys were satisfied with the workforce information they received.

Examination of the 85% satisfaction results from some entities indicated a lack of awareness of the products available. To remedy this, many new clients have been added to the appropriate product mailing lists and staff have been making personal contact with those who were unfamiliar with our products and services. R&A will continue to work to reach these audiences with more frequent contact. Site visits have already been conducted in several rural areas.

Results from the 2006 NCIS site survey show that 92% of the respondents reported that they were satisfied with the system. 43% of respondents indicated they used the system on a weekly basis. Suggestions and requests provided by the NCIS sites continue to be evaluated and when possible will be incorporated in the next system release. Two examples of customer requests that resulted in changes to the NCIS are the expanded key word search feature and the course planning feature; both were released with the 2006 version of NCIS. Feedback in our training workshops on these enhancements has been positive. A final method of obtaining feedback on the NCIS is through individual training workshop evaluations. These are collected after each workshop and results consistently indicate a high level of satisfaction with the product.

**Expenditures:**

Nevada’s grant period does not end until December 31, 2006. Total funds from the Core Products grant were \$453,146 and the remaining balance for continued work, as of September 15, 2006, is \$151,425.

PY to Date	Expenditures	Encumbered	Total
June 30, 2006	\$164,064	\$15,868	\$179,933
September 15, 2006	\$281,954	\$19,767	\$301,721

**Recommendations for Improvements or Changes to the Suite of Core Products:**

As indicated above, R&A will increase its outreach activities to economic development entities and chambers of commerce in rural areas to inform them of the workforce information available to them. In addition, R&A will work with the developer of its Workforce Informer web product to address ease-of-use issues identified via customer feedback. Lastly, we will be working to increase the diversity of the publications we make available on a regular basis to improve our ability to reach a broader audience.