



# Short-Term Forecasts

An America's Labor Market Information System (ALMIS) consortium was funded, with Illinois as the lead state, to develop an automated system to allow state employment security agency analysts to produce *quarterly* statewide industry forecasts and *annual two-year* statewide occupational forecasts.

The goal is to enable service providers to be able to present key labor market facts so that all jobseekers looking for quick entry into the labor market can make informed job choices.

The consortium membership reflects private- and public-sector involvement in creating a hybrid data processing system which will produce timely and comparable forecasts, *i.e.*, timely by gauging the turning points in the economy and comparable across states.

To date, the industry forecasting component of the system is complete; five week-long training seminars have been conducted (attended by 82 analysts from 46 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico); and software for industry forecasting has been distributed to state employment security agencies.

Areas of activity during the first-year of the project included: data sources, system design, system development, and occupational hiring research.

Second-year activities encompassed capacity building, enhancements to statewide forecasting software, Internet (home page and electronic accountability), metropolitan area forecasting, research on occupational forecasting, and user products.

During the next year, activities will focus on:

- A beta test of forecasting software for industry employment in metropolitan areas
- Development of an occupational forecasting component
- Integration of economic information to facilitate a national job search of local labor markets

In addition, joint efforts with the Long-Term Projections consortium will include development of a Projections WEB site and presentation of labor market information.

## **State Technical Considerations**

Minimum technical requirements to use the software: 66MHz 486 with 16MB RAM running Windows 3.1 or better, 3.5" Floppy or CD-ROM Drive, Mouse, and VGA monitor.

The final version of software, which incorporated user-friendly options, analytical tools, and a flexible response to diverse state needs, is being sent to states in July 1997.

## **SHORT-TERM FORECAST PRODUCTS**

- Two-year forecasts (annual updates) of private sector employment in over 700 occupations
- Quarterly forecasts extending to two years (quarterly updates) of private-sector employment in 65 industries



For additional information, please contact George Putnam at (312)793-9826 or Vicky Galifaro of the ALMIS Team at (202)219-8854.

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