

ARKANSAS: WORKFORCE INFORMATION PY'13 ANNUAL REPORT

In accordance with the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administrations' Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 29-12, dated May 10, 2013; this is Arkansas's annual report of accomplishments on the five core products and services contained within this grant.

POPULATE THE WORKFORCE INFORMATION DATABASE WITH STATE AND LOCAL DATA

All mandatory core tables of the Workforce Information database were updated by June 30, 2014. This is a continual project, as we update the information in the Workforce Information database as it is made available. Arkansas also populates many of the Workforce Information database's non-required demographic and economic tables and has built tables that will power local WIB Area profile reports in the "Discover Arkansas" system. We maintain the Uniform Resource Locators (URL) of <http://www.discoverarkansas.net> and <http://www.discover.arkansas.gov>, both being official website addresses for our Internet delivery of Workforce Information database information. The current website runs the 2.4 Version; however the new "Discover Arkansas" website will run the Version 2.5 of the WIDb that is now being populated.

All required licensing data are currently up to date with the last submission to the National Crosswalk Service Center on June 27, 2013. PY'14 will be our next year for updating the licensing data.

PRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE STATE AND LOCAL INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

Long-Term

Due to good occupational and industry growth in most sectors of the State, the LMI Department continues looking at the statewide Industry and Occupational Employment Projections to make sure any adjustments that need to be tabulated for the 2012-2022 projection period are made. With these adjustments, the projections were finalized on June 9, 2014 and submitted to the Projections Management Partnership and submitted to the Workforce Information Database Administrator on June 13, 2014. Due to the "Discover Arkansas" database re-write continuing by the State of Montana, some current database files have not and could not be updated within the Database Analysis Tool.

Statewide long-term projections can be viewed and downloaded from our Workforce Information database website at:
http://www.discoverarkansas.net/admin/uploadedPublications/2440_AR_It_12_22.pdf

The Long-Term projection's state-wide hard-copy publication will be released on or before September 30, 2013.

Short-Term

The Statewide Industry and Occupational Projections for the 2013-2015 period, utilizing a base period of 1st quarter 2013 and projected out to 1st quarter 2015, were completed on February 20, 2014, for Demand Occupation purposes and sent to the Projections Management Partnership Consortium. Database files were submitted to the Workforce Information Database Administrator on February 28, 2014, and the printed version of the 2013-2015 statewide short-term projections was released on May 22, 2014.

Arkansas completed the 2013-2015 sub-state Industry and Occupational Projections on April 30, 2014, and they were submitted to the Workforce Information Database Administrator on June 23, 2014. The printed versions of the 2013-2015 sub-state short-term projections were released on July 28, 2013.

State and sub-state level Short-Term Projections can be found through our Workforce Information Database website at: <http://www.discoverarkansas.net> or <http://www.discover.arkansas.gov>

PRODUCE AN ANNUAL STATEWIDE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS REPORT

The Labor Market Information section of the Department of Workforce Services will release the eighth edition of the *Arkansas Labor Market and Economic Report* on "Discover Arkansas" prior to September 30, 2014. Printed versions of the report will be submitted to Arkansas' Governor and the State Workforce Investment Board at their next full board meeting on October 14, 2014. The Annual Economic Analysis Report can be found on our Workforce Information Database website at:

<http://www.discoverarkansas.net> or <http://www.discover.arkansas.gov>

PRODUCE AND PUBLISH OTHER ECONOMIC AND LABOR MARKET REPORTS AND PRODUCTS

Completely throughout PY'13, the LMI Department, within the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, has made itself available for research and provided all types of economic and labor market information, as well as, conducting numerous special studies/informational releases for our various partners and customers, including the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Governor's Office Staff, Area Chambers of Commerce, Departments of Education and Higher Education, and Local Workforce Investment Boards. To provide these studies/informational releases we have utilized BLS data, the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) system, "Discover Arkansas", the Estimates Delivery System (EDS) and our EMSI Strategic Advantage system to relay information and answer questions and concerns that different customers have had about

the State or Local Area labor markets, economic conditions, and special initiatives.

Arkansas's major deliverables, as well as Projections and the Directory of Licensed Occupations, can be viewed through the Internet at:

Discover Arkansas (www.discoverarkansas.net or www.discover.arkansas.gov):

“Discover Arkansas” is the state’s web-based LMI delivery system supporting the WIBs, business, education, other agencies, and the public, utilizing information in Arkansas’s Workforce Information database. This fully ADA compliant system is continually updated with new information, reports, and consumer products. However, since the system is becoming dated, Arkansas entered a consortium with three other states (Montana, Nevada, and Michigan) and recently added two new states (Iowa and Illinois) to update the system into a .NET environment which will allow us to utilize the most modern and advanced Internet and web design technology.

2013-2014 Career Watch Arkansas (www.careerwatch.org): Arkansas distributed approximately 65,000 copies of this very popular tabloid-type career magazine in PY’13. *Career Watch Arkansas* provides students (and their parents) with over 20 areas of interest in exploring the world of work. Topics covered included career planning, resumes, apprenticeships, work ethic, military opportunities, top occupations, occupational profiles with wage information, scholarship information, financial aid programs, higher education in Arkansas, and more. The 2013-2014 *Career Watch Arkansas* magazine is also available for viewing and downloading at:

www.careerwatch.org or

http://www.discoverarkansas.net/admin/uploadedPublications/2341_cw_13_final.pdf.

Career Watch Arkansas can also be followed through media accounts of Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest at the following sites: <https://www.facebook.com/CareerWatchAR>

<http://pinterest.com/careerwatchar>

<https://twitter.com/careerwatchar>

High Demand Targeted Jobs – National Governor’s Association (NGA) Skills Matching System: Continues to provide information on the skill needs of jobs/occupations in Arkansas. We created a skills matching prototype system, through the support of the NGA “Pathways to Advancement Policy Academy”. This tool is loaded with the most up-to-date data possible and will continue to be incorporated into the “Discover Arkansas” LMI portal. It links Arkansas’s growth industries to the nationally recognized Educational Career Clusters. It also identifies if a growth industry is a targeted industry by the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC) or an industry that has been identified by the Department of Labor’s High Growth Job Training Initiative. The tool identifies occupations related to each growth industry and career pathway and provides information on skills, projections, wages, training programs, licensing requirements, and notes if it is a high demand occupation in Arkansas. The LMI section worked with AEDC and its consultant during the process of defining the newest list of Arkansas’s Targeted Industries/Jobs. Those are listed within the High Demand Targeted Jobs system found at: <http://www.discoverarkansas.net/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=152>.

Career Interests, Training, and Job Outlook System

Working with the Department of Career Education and the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges, the Arkansas LMI section developed this system to simplify the alignment of the Career Cluster/Cluster Pathway organizational system. Included are long-term projected job openings and average annual wages for the state of Arkansas. This information is extremely valuable to schools that are planning curriculum additions or changes, as well as, to individuals seeking career changes and can be viewed on "Discover Arkansas" at:

<http://www.discoverarkansas.net/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=161>.

Affirmative Action (www.discoverarkansas.net or www.discover.arkansas.gov): In support of the SWIB and LWIBs, business, education, economic development, other agencies, and the general public, the "Discover Arkansas" website contains an entire Affirmative Action section with statewide, MSA, and county tables that can be downloaded onto the user's PC.

Real-Life Arkansas: In our continuing support of our partners in Education and Employment, Arkansas's Labor Market Information section developed and released "Real-Life Arkansas" in 2007. However, due to problems with the programmer, host and maintainer of the "Real-Life Arkansas" system closing his business we have had to acquire at, no cost, the Texas lifestyle budget calculator system and are in the process of adapting it to the Real-Life Arkansas system requirements. We hope to have this completed by late Fall or early Winter of 2014/2015.

The Future Awaits: Arkansas continues the distribution and updating of this publication, which focuses on teaching young adults pre-employment and basic skills, including resume preparation, how to apply for jobs, appropriate dress, interview tips, and even basic guidance on how to complete federal tax forms. Due to many requests, we have reproduced the "Pocket Resume" out of *The Future Awaits* into a stand-alone workforce tool for citizens to use in their everyday work search. In March 2013, we made another small redesign of the "Pocket Resume" utilizing its more compact occupational tool design for our customers to use. *The Future Awaits* can be viewed and downloaded from "Discover Arkansas" at:

http://www.discoverarkansas.net/admin/uploadedPublications/347_Future_Awaits.pdf

The "Pocket Resume" can be viewed and downloaded from "Discover Arkansas" at:

<http://www.discoverarkansas.net/?PageID=166>

Arkansas Consumer Report System (ACRS) (www.arkansascrs.org): Arkansas continues to actively maintain and provide customer service for ACRS on a daily basis. ACRS provides an interactive, customer driven, search engine to review all educational entities within state boundaries. On January 19, 2012, we contracted with the Arkansas Department of Information Services to re-write the ACRS into a .NET environment and make a few program changes to enhance the customer's ability in finding information faster and easier. This re-write was completed on May 20, 2013.

Projected Employment Opportunities List (formerly the “Demand Occupations List”): Arkansas continues to produce this publication that identifies future job opportunities and links them to training programs within the state. The publication presents information in two columns, with the first providing the occupation's code, title, and a Statewide estimated average annual wage. The second column lists the corresponding Classification of Instructional Program training code and title for the occupation. A list is included for the State and each of the 10 Local Workforce Investment Areas. This product is distributed to help the workforce system and its users make better training decisions. Last updated on July 1, 2014, it can be viewed and downloaded at: <http://www.discoverarkansas.net/article.asp?ARTICLEID=407&PAGEID=67&SUBID=120> or through the Arkansas Consumer Report System (ACRS) at: <https://www.employment.arkansas.gov/ACRS/>

Workforce Area Statistics and Profiles: Arkansas has created localized labor market profiles for each of its Local Workforce Investment Areas. The profiles contain the local demand occupations with local wages and key important economic information for each Local Area. These can be found on “Discover Arkansas” at: www.discover.arkansas.gov or www.discoverarkansas.net as a left column heading of “Local Workforce Investment Area Statistics”.

Other Printed Publications with Web Access: During PY' 2013, the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services' Labor Market Information section has updated and produced various other LMI-based publications, such as the popular *Arkansas Wage Survey*, *Arkansas Labor Market*, *Arkansas's Hot 45*, *Career Watch Teacher's Guide*, and other reports, publications and information. Most of our publications are accessible on-line from the LMI Publications page of “Discover Arkansas,” while information and reports are scattered throughout the website at: www.discoverarkansas.net or www.discover.arkansas.gov.

Estimates Delivery System (EDS): Though EDS is not a web accessed tool for the public, it does provide extensive information that our LMI analyst's use to provide specialized reports to the Arkansas Governor's Office, Arkansas's Economic Development Commission, area economic developers and in our “Discover Arkansas” Workforce Information Database and in our other web products.

EMSI (Economic Modeling System, Inc.): Arkansas continues its relationship with EMSI, so that we are able to provide our customers with economic information even when the in-house labor market information is unreleasable, due confidentiality issues.

**CONSULT ON A CONTINUING BASIS WITH WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
BOARDS AND OTHER KEY WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

The Labor Market Information section is housed within the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services (DWS) and is part of the Office of Employment Assistance. We are

35101co-located with the staff of the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB), the State Dislocated Worker Unit, and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) staff. This arrangement allows for almost constant contact, association, and consultation with the different staff to identify and produce needed information in an ever changing economic arena. The LMI section also has a representative attend each State and most Local Board meetings which allows us to keep in touch with informational needs of the Boards. Also, almost daily, LMI staff is in contact with staff from one of the 10 Local Workforce Investment Boards and their one stop centers and/or one of the 32 full time DWS local offices. We provide information on a multitude of subjects from demand occupations that designate a WIA training requirement to labor supply information for a new industry that is considering locating in one of the Local Workforce Investment Board Areas (LWIB). Along with supplying labor information to the LWIBs, we constantly produce and provide various information to area economic development boards, educational partners, Chambers of Commerce, as well as, the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. This action helps facilitate industry growth within Arkansas and its economic regions.

Arkansas's LMI section continues to be aggressive in our pursuit to accomplish all of its certified deliverables and as of this writing we have obtained 100 percent of our timed goals for PY'13. Working with our many varied customers throughout the year, which includes the Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIB), the State Workforce Investment Board, and all our educational partners, we realize that each entity we serve requires a different set of information to meet their ever changing needs. In trying to meet those needs we are constantly trying to make the information simpler to understand, but yet providing the technical information that the customer desires or prefers. We are continually addressing this issue realizing that as more information becomes available we will be relied on more and more, as time passes, to provide this diversified information. To help in providing non-confidential information to our customers, we acquired the EMSI Analyst tool which includes very good graphing and charting characteristics that we utilize to incorporate eye catching graphs and ideas into our publications, whether in hard copy or Internet related. Another area that we have put effort into, but will continue to provide better service in the upcoming PY'14, is with our personal contact and communication with the Local and State Workforce Investment Boards. To adjust for this, we have again asked each LWIB area to submit their meeting dates for us to ascertain the possibility of having a LMI staff person present as often as possible. We continue to strive for excellence in developing our product mix, but our main goal will be furnishing the citizens of Arkansas with good, reliable, and accurate labor market information regardless of whether they are individuals, employers, agency partners, or local and state workforce entities.