

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & HUMAN RESOURCES

Bureau of Labor Statistics/Labor Market Information

Annual Progress Report for ETA's
Labor Market Information Core Products and Information Grants
PY2005, 2006 and 2007 - 8

During this past year the Puerto Rico Department of Labor (PRDOL) has kept receiving information from all contributing areas that make up the statistics web page products, whether on a weekly, monthly or annual scale.

As client needs seem more evident as detailed and compiled as part of the Satisfaction Survey, the web page as well as all information technology products are updated or redesigned. We have continued using WID version 2.3 for the database.

At this time, the PRDOL is in the process of redesigning the entire web page, using Adobe Creative Suite 3 Web Premium as the software tool. With these upgrades, clients will be able to:

- Obtain precise and concise information,
- Receive answers much faster,
- Have a more flexible and user friendly search engine, and
- Have a much more visually appealing design.

Therefore, the accomplishments reported for this past year, have been summarized in terms of what has been done and what will be maintained or slightly changed in order to improve quality whether in each product or in each service. The LMI Shop...

1. Keeps giving systematic, technical maintenance to the database, on the basis of received electronic reports from the ARC (Analyst Resources Center).
2. Data is integrated on a continuous basis, from the state's Bureau of Labor Statistics office directly into the computer system.
3. A new link was added to integrate the revised Price Index data.
4. All labor market publication products were designed or upgraded, published and disseminated directly from the offices of the State Bureau of Labor Statistics in San Juan.

[Copies of published reports and newsletters in hard copy documents have been sent to the Boston Regional Office via regular Post Office mail, under separate cover (a box), as before. These materials are updated and continuously being distributed in: conferences, workshops and among local WIB offices across the Island throughout the year. This also includes the Bureau of Employment Security Offices and other Commonwealth offices including those on the mainland.]

5. For the past year, LMI staff members, although they did not travel abroad for specific technical training, some did attend state-funded training that will enhance their every day functions.

6. As far as changes go, most of them, if not all, have been client recommended.

- All BLS/LMI products received Customer Satisfaction Survey evaluation (both in English and in Spanish) with included copies of said survey inside the product sample box mailed as an attachment to this report.
- Some products have been redesigned, whether with an improved colorful presentation and/or with more elaborate graphics. Contents have been thoroughly analyzed and written by professionals in their field, who at times were given the chance to read and submit comments on drafts, before final public printing.
- Over all, 400 client/users were given eight (8) multiple-choice questions, so as to choose the best alternative that determined his/her degree of satisfaction with each product. LMI offices received responses, or 51.8% participation. A follow-up effort is being maintained in order to receive a larger response ratio.

7. Government agencies and parts of the private sector interested in receiving PRDOL product publications, will receive them at no cost. But now, the agencies, academia, and private sector are periodically receiving a list with the titles of all LMI publications (a catalogue), should they need more than one copy of what they already receive, or should they wish to add themselves on to another, additional mailing list for different products. They now have the chance to update their LMI product needs with the availability to access the LMI Shop's mail listings.

8. Agencies and potential clients will have the chance to add themselves on to the LMI shop's mailing list and receive updated, current materials.

9. A Puerto Rican region workforce information product titled "*Perfil Economico del Area Local*" (Economic Profile of the LWIB) is being put together and it contains specific, individualized geographic information about each specific local area (WIB). The objective of the information supplied is to meet, the expressed need of each LWIB in the area of statistics and analysis.

10. The designation of an analyst per LWIB is maintained, but revised as needed.

11. Measures to keep strengthening the *"exchange factor"* between regional WIBs and the labor market staff are being worked out. Exchange with the State Workforce Agency is underway as a member of the staff was assigned to this activity.

12. In order to produce the grants' required short and long term projections, the PRDOL and the USDOL, Boston's Bureau of Labor Statistics Office have agreed to begin training two of Puerto Rico's State LMI staff members. These staffers will travel to Boston to receive an intensive, hands-on, week-long OES and Projections training from Ms. Catherine Foley in the Boston State BLS Office and Mr. Jim Sibley, in the Regional BLS Office. Ms. Deborah Brown, Deputy Commissioner for the BLS agreed to forfeit some of Mr. Sibley's time in order to help produce these statistics with BLS quality.

And so, at this time, we wish to thank the dedicated BLS/LMI staff members that have performed wonderfully for the past year, making it possible to present good quality materials relevant to the Island's workforce. They are a good, professional team committed toward keeping Puerto Rico's economic status in the public eye.

NOTE: Attachments 1, 2 and 3 constitute a copy of the fiscal disbursements carried out during the past year's administrative servicing of the grant. Copies of the June 30'x, 2008 reports are enclosed in order for you to receive a clearer picture of each of the 3 grants' fiscal outlook, including the PY 2005 grant's close out report.