

Illinois Department of Employment Security
Economic Information and Analysis Division

PY08 Workforce Information Grant Annual Performance Report
July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

A. Continue to Populate the Workforce Information Database with State and Local Data.

Outcomes

Maintained the current WIDb (version 2.3) and updated all core tables as required and according to guidelines as data became available. Illinois will move to version 2.4 in Fall 2009 to support the latest version of Virtual LMI. In addition, staff:

- ▶ Contracted for off-site hosting of the WIC to improve response times and to allow use of the latest version of the software (v. 9.2) which added numerous additional features including multiple geography selection, data comparison across areas, and an improved user interface (New web address: <http://illinois.virtuallmi.com/>)
- ▶ Participated in the VLMI user group meetings; and,
- ▶ Loaded historical US LAUS, QCEW, and CES data.

Customer Consultations

The primary tool for customer feedback is the Illinois Workforce Info Center (WIC), the Illinois version of GeoSol's Virtual LMI. In addition, outreach staff works jointly with Illinois workNet staff to collect feedback on the delivery of workforce information via the WIC and Illinois workNet websites by utilizing focus groups of business associations and economic development professionals.

B. Produce and Disseminate Industry and Occupational Employment Projections.

Outcomes

- ▶ Compiled required databases and completed necessary adjustments in order to produce 24 Local Workforce Area (LWA) data sets for the 2007-2009 short-term and 2006-2016 long-term industry and occupational employment projections.
- ▶ Reviewed and finalized Statewide 2008-2010 short-term industry and occupational employment projections.
- ▶ As a result of previous customer consultation, generated sub-county industry and occupational employment projections for the three Local Workforce Areas that comprise Cook County.
- ▶ At the request of partner workforce agencies, produced long-term (2006-2016) industry and occupational employment projections for 232 User Defined Regions (including Economic Development Regions, Community College districts, and secondary education regions).
- ▶ Updated online and print publications "Winning Job Opportunities: A Guide for the Formerly Incarcerated in Illinois" and "Learn More Earn More" (<http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/lmem/lmem.htm>).

Customer Consultations

Customer contact via email or phone for assistance with the analysis and interpretation of projections data continues to be the principal source of feedback on both the content and delivery of projections data.

C. Publish an Annual Economic Analysis Report for the Governor and the SWIB.

Outcomes

The 2008 Illinois Annual Economic Analysis Report (at <http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/iaear.htm>) examines the current workforce situation of the state of Illinois and each of the ten Economic Development Regions (EDRs). Based upon feedback from local economic and workforce development professionals and government staff, topics examined include: a comparison of employment changes in recent recessionary

periods; a clean energy strategy for the Illinois economy; and the labor force and related statistics for Illinois and its economic regions.

Customer Consultations

Local Labor Market Economists regularly refer local and regional economic and workforce development professionals to the Annual Economic Analysis Report and follow-up to gather feedback on its usefulness.

D. Post Products, Information, and Reports on the Internet.

Throughout PY08, staff promoted the products and services available through the One Source portal (www.ILWorkInfo.com) as the premier access point for comprehensive, reliable workforce information in Illinois. As a result, over 488,000 customers visited Illinois' One Source Workforce and Career Information Web sites during the program year.

Outcomes

- ▶ The updated 2009 Career Information System (CIS) and CIS Junior were released to the Web in September and December 2008, respectively as scheduled. All occupational files were updated with descriptions, wages, and employment projections data. Number of unique visitors, CIS = 133,900
CIS Junior = 47,350.
- ▶ Career Click provides information on Illinois occupations organized into the sixteen national career clusters. Each occupational description includes skills information, job duties, average wages, state and substate employment levels, and employment forecasts for Illinois and all 10 Economic Development Regions. Number of visitor sessions = 69,800.
- ▶ LMI Source continues to serve as the primary point of customer access to data sets and print publications. Number of visitor sessions = 211,900.
- ▶ In response to customer feedback, re-launched the Workforce Info Center through the Virtual LMI platform. Number of unique visitors = 25,675.

Publications updated and distributed during PY08 are described in the attached "Illinois Workforce Information Grant Publication List."

Customer Consultations

Staff conducted directed interviews and focus groups with partner agency staff and constituents in order to gather input for our continuous improvement process.

E. Partner and Consult on a Continuing Basis with Workforce Investment Boards and Key Talent Development Partners and Stakeholders.

Outcomes

- ▶ Further expanded the partnership with the Illinois Workforce Investment Board (IWIB) and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IDCEO) to incorporate the features of the Career Information System and the most frequently requested labor market information into Illinois workNet, including participation on the IWIB workNet Steering Committee.
- ▶ Provided monthly Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Current Employment Statistics (CES), Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) summary reports and Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) data, in requested formats, by Economic Development Regions (EDRs) and Local Workforce Areas (LWAs) to Governor's Office, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), Illinois Workforce Investment Board (IWIB), and to all Local Workforce Investment Boards.
- ▶ Developed and presented charts and bullet-pointed briefing on the state of the Illinois economy and work force to the Economic Development Subcabinet at its quarterly meetings.

- ▶ Updated and refined occupational supply-demand balance analysis for the IWIB's Information Technology Task Force and continued to staff the Economic Development Subcabinet's Regional Nursing Workforce Initiative and chair its Labor Market Data Support Team.
- ▶ Local Labor Market Economists routinely provided technical assistance to regional economic and workforce development partners and their constituents by:
 - Serving on Local WIB Youth Councils, advisory committees, standing committees, and BRAC committees.
 - Compiling data for reports and presentations for/to economic development professionals, Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Education, and local elected officials.
 - Assisting local and regional Rapid Response teams in their efforts.
 - Preparing data for site selection packages to support local business attraction efforts.
- ▶ Highlights of outreach activities conducted during PY08 to support key partners and stakeholders include:
 - At the request of the Director of Chicago Public Schools' newly formed Department of College and Career Preparation, staff participated in the First Annual Career and Technical Education Human Services College and Career Fair. Held in the heart of Humboldt Park, a predominately Puerto Rican neighborhood at the Roberto Clemente High School, the fair focused on the Human Services Career Cluster with representatives from the following industries – Agriculture; Cosmetology; Childcare; Fashion Design; Hospitality and Culinary Arts; Health Science; and, Law, Public Safety and Security. IDES provided workforce and career information to the students and their parents/guardians through two workshops and distribution of the Guides to Career Choices for those career clusters and staffed a career exploration exhibit booth during the event.
 - Staff conducted multi-session hands-on career exploration workshops for 10th and 11th grade students attending the Benito Juarez High School (enrollment is 97.7% low-income). The school is located in the Little Village Community on the southwest side of Chicago and has more than 1,500 students. The workshops were geared toward navigating the career resource system for labor market information and financial aid in order to address the fears of many students regarding how to pay for their college education. During this month-long training over 400 students, unfamiliar with career exploration, were introduced to IDES' resources and Web sites.
 - Staff conducted two 3-hour interactive career exploration training sessions for 20 Chicago area high school freshmen and sophomore students as part of a college and career readiness summer program with the East Village Youth Program (EVYP), a community-based organization whose mission is to encourage and prepare primarily low-income youth for a college education. EVYP services include: after-school programming for grades 5-12, including service learning, character education, and one-on-one tutoring; as well as the opportunity to obtain a college scholarship for those who complete the program. The EVYP Director of High School and College Programs commented: *"The Kids and Careers handout was exceptionally helpful in providing our high school students with the tools to navigate the website and create their own CIS profile. For the first time, students were able to understand the amount of work and energy it would take to enter the field of their choice. This directly helped students understand the link between focusing on good grades in high school and attaining the career of their dreams. The Occupation Sort tool provided our students with an exciting way to take a stand for their own futures. Many thanks for introducing our students to these wonderful tools."*
- ▶ Staff conducted or participated in over 110 events including the following presentations, exhibits, and capacity-building training sessions for the workforce development and business communities:
 - Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth Annual Conference;
 - Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Professionals Conference;
 - Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council Workforce Leadership Summit;
 - Women's Entrepreneurial Conference (Chicago);
 - Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce conference;
 - Rock Valley Workforce Board retreat;
 - Madison County Business and Professional Women Club;

- Chicago Business Education Association Annual Conference;
- Springfield Council for Independent Living Youth Transition Conference; and,
- Chicago Public Schools Jr. High School Math and Science Fair.

Customer Consultations

Input from Local Workforce Board staff and education and workforce development professionals and counselors yielded significant suggestions for enhancements and improvements to IDES' Web sites and the *Winning Job Opportunities* and *Learn More Earn More* brochures to be incorporated during the upcoming program year. Feedback from economic development organizations and business associations and leaders serving on the IWIB's industry task forces will be used to improve workforce and career information delivery.

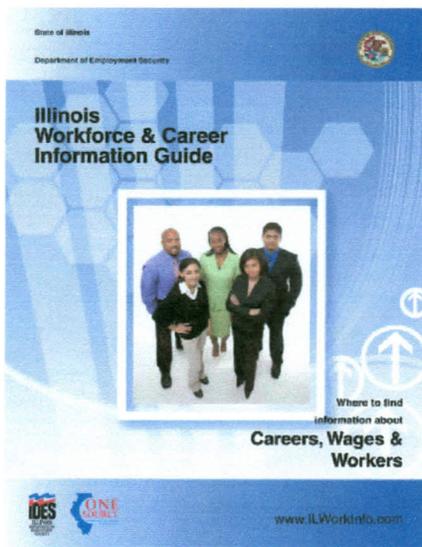
F. Conduct Special Studies and Economic Analyses.

At the request of the Governor's Office and the Illinois Workforce Investment Board, IDES Economic Information and Analysis Division staff continues to support the Health Care Workforce Committee and chair its Labor Market Data Support Team. IDES and its partners charge is to conduct special studies to analyze the labor supply-demand relationships crucial to developing the required talents and skills among the State's workforce to support growth in Illinois' critical industry sectors. During PY08, analysis was expounded for the Nursing Workforce Initiative in both the Northeast Economic Development Region (led by Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council) and Southern Illinois EDR (led by ConnectSI).



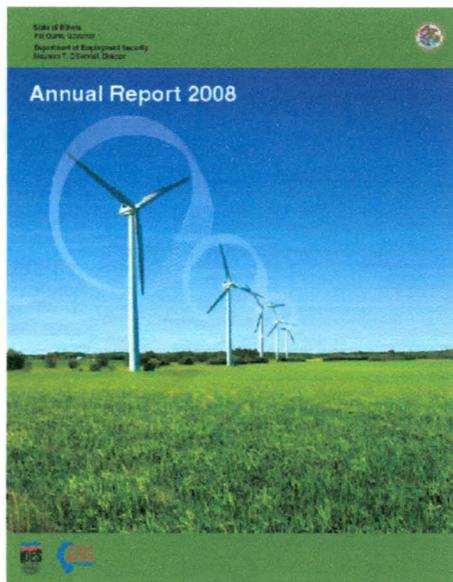
One Source Brochure

Describes features of the workforce, labor market, and career information Web sites that can be accessed from IDES' One Source portal page - www.ILWorkInfo.com.



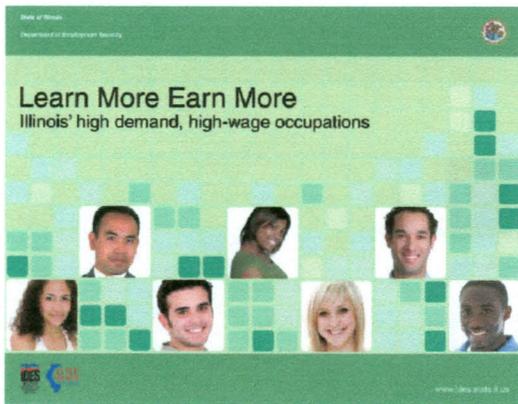
Workforce & Career Information Guide

This publication introduces customers to the many products IDES has developed which explore the state's labor market. The resources described in this guide should enable customers to make more informed decisions regarding careers, education and economic development.



Illinois Annual Economic Analysis Report

The Illinois Annual Economic Analysis Report examines the current workforce situation of the state of Illinois and each of the ten Economic Development Regions (EDRs) and includes a comparison of employment changes in recent recessionary periods and a clean energy strategy for the Illinois economy



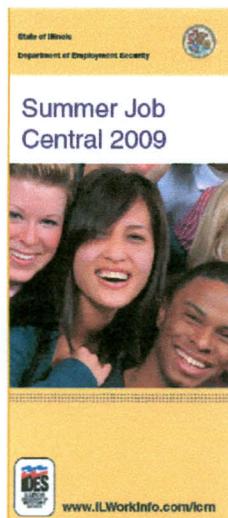
Learn More Earn More (English + Spanish)

A listing of the Illinois occupations that are expected to provide the most annual job openings each year. Included in the list are the number of annual openings for the occupations, the hourly wages, required skills, and a description for the occupations.



Winning Job Opportunities

A six-page booklet that lists the occupations that are most accessible to the formerly incarcerated and that are expected to provide the most job openings each year.



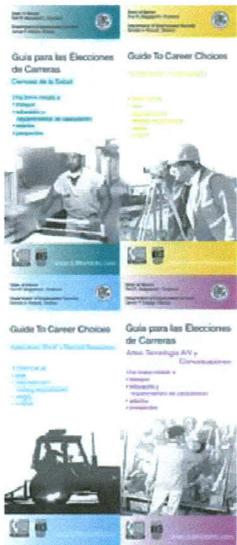
Summer Job Central

Summer Job Central 2008 provides information for young people looking for seasonal employment. It includes links to resources, Web sites with job listings, and a parents' guide to summer work.



Kids and Careers: How Families Can Help Youth Succeed (English + Spanish)

This informational brochure contains helpful ideas for parents to aid their child with the transition between high school and higher education or entering the workforce.



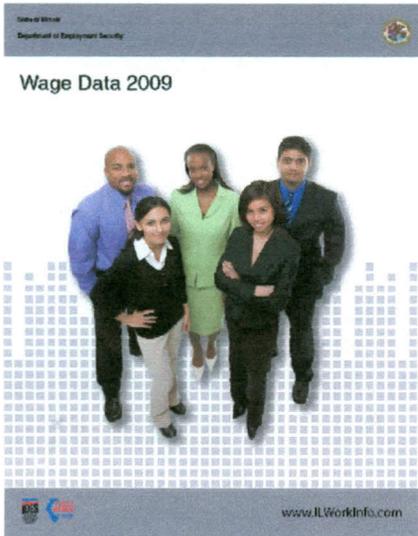
Guides to Career Choices

The Guides to Career Choices provide job descriptions, job outlooks, wage information, and list the education and training requirements for a particular career interest area.



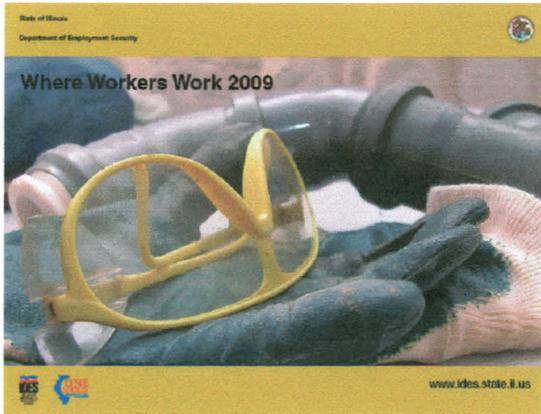
The Illinois Labor Market Review

The Illinois Labor Market Review is a quarterly publication that explores workforce and labor market issues in Illinois.



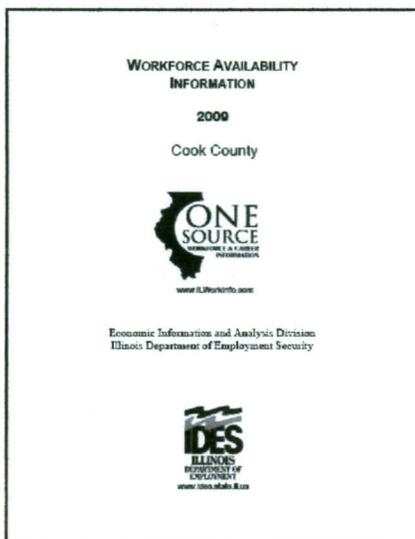
Wage Data

A 60-page report showing current entry-level, median and experienced hourly wages for more than 700 occupations in Illinois.



Where Workers Work

Where Workers Work features basic private sector employment totals for six northeastern Illinois counties, major communities in each of these counties, and ZIP codes within the City of Chicago.



Workforce Availability, Statewide, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), and County

Data to help you in completing your Affirmative Action compliance, or EEO reports, are available for all counties and Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Included are population, labor force, and major occupational employment by race and gender.