

**South Carolina
Workforce Information Grant
Annual Performance Report
PY 2008**

Continue to populate the Workforce Information Database with state and local data.

A SQL database structure was developed for the Workforce Information Database. The database was updated to version 2.4. All core data tables were populated, and updated as new data became available. In addition to the core tables, these other tables were populated:

- Building permits
- Census labor
- Commuting patterns
- Consumer Price Index
- Mass Layoff Statistics
- Government payments
- Program completers
- Educational programs
- Property values
- Retail sales
- Schools
- Short-term occupational projections
- Labor supply
- Tax collections

The two licensing files were populated in the previous program year, and will be updated in PY 2009.

The WIDb is the source for data in SC's LMI website, SCWorkforceInfo.com. During this program year, the WIDb was made available to Commerce Research staff through the Business Objects system. This enhanced economic and workforce development efforts by making a wider array of data readily accessible for various research needs and analyses. Also, the WIDb was used as a source for Commerce's new online county labor profiles. As the WIDb is updated, these profiles will be automatically updated as well.

Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections.

Statewide industry and occupational employment projections to 2010 (short-term) and sub-state industry and occupational employment projections to 2016 (long-term) were developed. The sub-state projections were for the state's 12 workforce areas. The sub-state projections were used to update the statewide long-term projections as well.

In addition to the Projections Managing Partnership system, input from local workforce and economic development officials and university economists was used to develop the projections.

The Workforce Information Database was populated with both the short-term and long-term projections. Long-term industry and occupational projections are being added to the LMI website (www.scworkforceinfo.com). When instructions are received from the Projections Managing Partnership, long-term projections will be provided for national dissemination.

The projections analyst trained with projections staff in North Carolina.

Publish an annual economic analysis report for the governor and the SWIB.

"South Carolina Key Performance Indicators 2009" was completed in June 2009. The report benchmarks South Carolina's performance in regard to the economy, community and innovation against the U.S. Included are composite indexes of performance over the past several years. Measures used in the analysis include employment, income, gross domestic product, population, poverty, education, crime, research and development, and foreign investment. The report provides an assessment of the current state of South Carolina's economy, and a baseline for future assessment of how the economy is doing. A variety of data sources were used in the report, including Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Tax Foundation, ACCRA, National Center for Education Statistics, South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, U.S. Department of Justice, National Science Foundation, U.S. Patents and Trademark Office, PricewaterhouseCoopers/National Venture Capital Association, Kauffman Index of Entrepreneurial Activity, Small Business Association. The report was posted on the LMI website (www.scworkforceinfo.com).

Post products, information, and reports on the Internet.

The Department of Commerce maintained the SCWorkforceInfo.com site as the online source for South Carolina labor market information. Information was kept up-to-date, with updates generally done within a week of becoming available. A calendar of data updates was maintained to help in keeping the site as current as possible. As relevant new or updated information or reports became available, they were highlighted on the site's main page.

Also, Workforce Information Database data was used to provide workforce information for South Carolina's Virtual One-Stop (VOS) online labor exchange system. Data from the Workforce Information

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Database was used to make current and targeted workforce information available for job-seekers and businesses in VOS.

The state's WIDb Administrator attended Geographic Solutions' annual workforce technology conference to help keep up-to-date on developments affecting the LMI site. Geographic Solutions is the developer for the LMI site.

Partner and consult on a continuing basis with workforce investment boards and key talent development partners and stakeholders.

Regular communication was maintained with local workforce staff, notifying them of new workforce information or services as they became available.

LMI partnered with, communicated with, and/or provided information to regional economic development alliances, county economic development offices, school counselors, and other organizations. These activities included:

- LMI workshop at state workforce conference
- LMI overview for Edgefield County employers' group
- Participated with S.C. team at Region 3 Recovery & Reemployment Forum

Conduct special studies and economic analyses.

A major activity in this area during the program year was production of base labor market analyses for most of the state's workforce areas. The initial analysis was for the Greenville workforce area, based on a request from the local United Way in partnership with the local workforce board. The analysis was to support an initiative to help low-skill workers in the area. As a follow-up to that analysis, LMI was requested to provide analyses of four target sectors: healthcare, hospitality and tourism, manufacturing, and professional and technical. One result of these efforts was a training program for advanced manufacturing targeted to those with low skills in the area.

Following completion of the Greenville base analysis, other workforce areas were offered the opportunity to have base analyses done for their areas. Analyses were requested and completed for these areas: Lower Savannah, Pee Dee, Santee-Lynches, Catawba, Midlands, Upstate, Lowcountry, Upper Savannah. Analyses were done for each county in the area as well as the area as a whole. All these reports are available on the LMI website (www.scworkforceinfo.com).

Other significant activities in this area during the program year included:

- Information for a variety of requests related to economic development projects
- Information for a variety of requests for local workforce staff

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- Data on sectors susceptible to outsourcing
- Updated economic profile for Lowcountry workforce area (available in SC Department of Commerce website - www.sccommerce.com)
- Worker flow maps and tables for each county for new labor profiles (available in SC Department of Commerce website - www.sccommerce.com)
- SC Job Market Survey for SC Excellence in Education Foundation
- Reemployment profiles for Commerce's Workforce Division
- Occupational training recommendations for Workforce stimulus funds
- Green jobs list (available in LMI website – www.scworkforceinfo.com)
- State labor force projections for SC Department of Education

In addition, during this period LMI secured real-time LMI data for SC. This information will include historical and current data on job openings in the state.

In achieving the accomplishments noted above as well as other workforce information activities, the Department of Commerce expended \$313,963.71. In February 2009, ETA staff reviewed South Carolina's performance under the Workforce Information Grant, with no problems being found.

Customer consultation

Regular communication was maintained with local workforce staff, notifying them of new workforce information or services as they became available.

In addition to state and local workforce and economic development staff, over the year, Commerce's LMI office worked with the following groups:

- South Carolina Chamber of Commerce
- Greenville United Way
- SC Technical College System
- Denmark Technical College
- SC Department of Education
- State Energy Office
- SC Employment Security Commission

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Rather than formal means of consultation, LMI staff had discussions and communication with these groups as a means of informing them of LMI services while getting their ideas on how the LMI office could serve them. Using this approach, Commerce's LMI office was able to make more headway in establishing itself as a resource in South Carolina for workforce information.

As noted above, special efforts for consultation were made in developing employment projections. Rather than relying solely on the projections system, Commerce's LMI office solicited input from local workforce and economic development officials and state economic experts to help in developing employment projections. While making for better projections, this consultation also helped establish partnerships between these groups and individuals and Commerce's LMI office.