

Illinois Department of Employment Security
Economic Information and Analysis Division

PY09 Workforce Information Grant Annual Performance Report
July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

A. Populate the Workforce Information Database (WIDb) with State and Local Data.

Outcomes

Maintained the current WIDb (version 2.4) and updated all core tables as required and according to guidelines as data became available. In addition, staff:

- Upgraded to the latest version of the public access Workforce Info Center software (v. 10.05) which added numerous additional features including improved geography selection, tabbed screens to reduce scrolling, data comparison across areas, and an improved user interface (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 Workforce Info Center (WIC), Illinois' Virtual LMI website. WIC was recognized with a plaque for "Most Traffic to a Virtual LMI Website" at the 2010 Workforce Technology Conference "Workforce Development without Boundaries." Staff review feedback on the delivery of workforce information via the WIC and enhancements are identified for internal implementation and prioritization for the Virtual LMI Consortium, as appropriate.

B. Produce and Disseminate Industry and Occupational Employment Projections.

Outcomes

- ▶ Assembled, reviewed and posted both statewide 2009-2011 short-term and 2008-18 long-term industry and occupational employment projections.
- ▶ Generated required databases and completed necessary adjustments in order to produce 24 Local Workforce Area (LWA) data sets for the 2009-2011 short-term and 2008-2018 long-term industry and occupational employment projections.
- ▶ As a result of previous customer consultation, constructed sub-county industry and occupational employment projection files for the three Local Workforce Areas that comprise Cook County and began the review process.
- ▶ Updated online and print employment projections publications "Learn More Earn More" (<http://lmi.ides.state.il.us/lmem/lmem.htm>) in both English and Spanish.

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 2009 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) in the national and global economies. Special attention was focused this year on green industries and occupations in 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.

Again in PY09, 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, 505,600 customers visited Illinois' One Source Workforce and Career Information Web sites during the program year.

Outcomes

- ▶ The updated 2010 Career Information System (CIS) and CIS Junior were released to the Web as scheduled in September and December 2009, respectively. All occupational files were updated with descriptions, wages, and employment projections data. Number of unique visitors, CIS = 144,425
CIS Junior = 24,675.
- ▶ Career Click serves as a quick reference for customers on Illinois occupations organized into the sixteen national career clusters. Each occupational description includes job duties, required skills, average wages, state and substate employment levels, and employment forecasts for Illinois and all 10 Economic Development Regions. Number of unique visitors = 46,050.
- ▶ LMI Source continues to help customers as the primary point of access to labor market data and information. Number of unique visitors = 249,275.
- ▶ The updated Workforce Info Center, Illinois' Virtual LMI platform, recorded a significant increase in customer activity during this program year. Number of unique visitors = 41,175.

Customer Consultations

Staff reviewed website email feedback and conducted directed interviews 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

- ▶ Continued to expand and enhance the incorporation of the Career Information System and the most frequently requested labor market information into Illinois workNet as part of our partnership with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IDCEO) and Illinois Workforce Investment Board (IWIB).
- ▶ Updated, refined and expanded occupational supply-demand balance analysis for the IWIB's and Economic Development Subcabinet's Regional Nursing Workforce Initiative.
- ▶ 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, IDCEO, IWIB, and to all Local Workforce Investment Boards.
- ▶ Local Labor Market Economists continued to provide technical assistance to regional economic and workforce development partners and their constituents by:
 - Serving on Local WIB Youth Councils, advisory committees, and standing 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 PY09 to support key partners and stakeholders include:
 - Responded to request from LWIB-24 Division Manager for assistance with updating of their five-year plan. She replied: *"I am impressed with such a quick turn around time. I will review the documents and make the recommended changes. Thank you so much for your input and updates."* (Melinda Nicholson, LWIB 24)
 - From the LWIB 19 Business Chairperson, "Thank you so much for your presentation at our WIB meeting yesterday. The information you shared with our Board was enlightening and very informative. And while the info you provided *did* have some negative and positive points regarding our local economy, it was a very well done presentation. You presented the facts, and that in itself is important for our Board to hear."
 - Upon receipt of his data request, the Edwardsville Planning Commissioner replied, "This is great. And I already have 2006 numbers so this is exactly what I need in order to do a trendline. The info you have provided has been so helpful. You've saved me hours of work already so thank you VERY much." (Scott Hanson, City of Edwardsville)
 - "I just wanted to thank you for all of the 'green' information you've sent to me in the last few weeks as well as your usual LMI updates. It is much appreciated!" --Matt Jones, Assistant Executive Director, CWDP, Madison County Employment & Training.
 - Along with his order for additional brochures, the Calhoun High School Counselor wrote, "I find your website of great value in talking to our students about jobs and careers. The interactive ones are the best. They do make our kids think about the future."
 - In response to last-minute assistance provided to DCEO staff and consultants, ". . . your staffing patterns research on Wind & Solar manufacturing was right on, it saved me hours of research on Friday night preparing numbers for the state's green grant app. . . . Thanks again."
 - "Thank you for your fine presentation to the Counseling and Advising Coordinating Council at Waubensee Community College. Your presentation gave us a greater understanding of the factors which go into the development of the employment projections and trends, the resources which are available through IDES, and other information regarding understanding "occupations of the future". Our staff thought your presentation was very useful in providing information and resources which they can use when advising students about careers/occupations. Again, thank you for taking the time to come to our Sugar Grove Campus to assist us! We appreciate it!" (Tom Piekarczyk, WCC Counselor)
 - "Wow! This is laid out beautifully. It's EASY to read. I'm going to have the librarian put this up so everyone can see it. I can't believe how clear this is. Thank you very much for your promptness and the analysis, which will help make certain that I mull over the statistics correctly. The state system works. Can't believe I received this help so quickly." (Mildred L. Culp, Ph.D.; *WorkWise*, Passage Media)
- ▶ Staff conducted or participated in over 115 events including the following presentations, exhibits, and capacity-building training sessions for the workforce development and business communities:
 - "Pink Side of Green" at USDoL conference on Women in Green; Rend Lake Resort, Ina IL;
 - Rehab Institute of Chicago Career Education Day;
 - Salazar Bilingual Center Career Day;
 - Lakeland College Energy Conference presented "Green is the New Black (on Your Bottom Line)";
 - Illinois Coalition for Educating At-Risk Youth Annual Conference;
 - Women's Entrepreneurial Conference (Chicago);
 - "Growing Green Jobs" for Decatur LWIB;
 - "Employment Trends" for the Eastern Illinois Business and Education Association (EIBEA);
 - Illinois State Black Chamber of Commerce 4th Annual Convention;
 - "The Pink Side of Green" and "Green the Planet, Green Your Wallet" at Connections Conference;
 - "One Stop Shop" Information Fair for Veterans (Army National Guard Armory, East St. Louis);

- "Sectors and Cluster and All Those Numbers" at the Governor's Workforce Development Conference; and,
- "Occupational Employment Projections and Wage Data Determinations of WIA Eligibility" at IDCEO/ICCB "Occupational Bridge Programs and Class Size Training" Conference.

Customer Consultations

Input collected from Local Workforce Board staff, workforce development professionals, and career counselors during the program year has provided several possible enhancements to be incorporated into IDES' workforce and career information websites.

F. Conduct Special Studies and Economic Analyses.

During PY09, staff continued work to support the Illinois Workforce Investment Board's Health Care Workforce Committee. 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. For example, analysis was expanded 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) to include LPNs and APNs.