

Mississippi
Annual Performance Report
ETA One Stop LMI Grant
PY 2012 (7/1/2012 – 6/30/2013)

Accomplishments

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

Mississippi has continued to update the Workforce Information database with required data sets as established by the Analyst Resource Center. The database is available on the Labor Market Information section of the MDES agency website. We are using the most current version of the database to ensure consistency with other states and constantly work to update the system with current information or revised data as it becomes available.

(2) Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections.

Mississippi produced short-term projections for the 2012 to 2014 period. Long-term occupational and industry projections were finalized and disseminated for the following sub-state levels: four Metropolitan Statistical Areas, four Workforce Investment Areas, and thirteen Community College Districts. The additional areas provide greater flexibility and more local data for users for special projects and initiatives.

All projections were produced using the methodology, software tools, and guidelines developed by the Projections Workgroup and the Projections Managing Partnership. We are awaiting approval from ETA and BLS to publish the data. The WIDb will be populated with the short-term and long-term projections once we receive approval on the projections.

(3) Conduct and publish relevant economic analyses, special workforce information, and/or economic studies determined to be of benefit to the governor and state and local WIBs.

In addition to the wide variety of publications that the Labor Market Information Department is required to publish, the following items were produced during PY 2012.

The Labor Market Information Department created area specific occupational wages and staffing patterns along with labor force statistics and industry employment amounts to support general economic development and research efforts or to assist individual employers interested in locating in a certain area. The wage estimates for smaller geographic areas were produced using the Estimates Delivery System by combining contiguous surrounding counties in order to produce as many occupations as possible while maintaining confidentiality standards associated with the data.

Mississippi created an annual economic analysis report and is providing copies to the Office of the Governor and the State Workforce Investment Board. As directed in the planning guidance, UI data and data from outside sources were incorporated in the report. As designated by the Governor, LMI provided several analysis and certifications for Targeted Employment Areas.

The Labor Market Information Department included local UI statistics (initial claims, continued claims and benefits paid) in the monthly publication. LMI also partnered with other departments within MDES to provide data for various presentations along with an overview publication of the various data produced by the Labor Market Information Department. This is considered a valuable form of outreach and should increase use of data that is produced.

During PY 2012, we continued reviewing agency administrative data consisting of Quarterly Wage Records, Employment Service applicants and Workforce Investment Act records. Through our analysis of these records we are able to identify and report a variety of demographic and geographic data which tells us and others about the customers that we serve along with more detailed information about the potential labor pool that exists in Mississippi. This data can be used by local office managers, WIA staff, and economic developers to gain insight into the pool of available workers in their respective areas. We are able to create this data at the State, WIA, county, and city levels. We have created a time series of individuals served by MDES and are able to identify changes over time.

We continue to provide wage matching services for the WIA program; allowing us to track earnings of individuals that have received services or training through MDES. During PY 2012 we addressed multiple requests to track thousands of individuals' earnings across multiple years. We are able to provide total wages earned and identify specific employers and industries if required; depending on the services provided to the individual or the type of request.

We assisted with an annual performance evaluation of MDES/WIA funded training programs. We were able to track wages earned by individuals who participated in and completed training programs, and then created a Return on Investment calculation by comparing wages earned to the cost of the training program. The data could be analyzed by Region, Training Program, Training Provider, or individual records. This is a process that should continue on an annual basis to assist in the evaluation of training programs and providers.

(4) Post products, information and reports on the Internet

All publications produced by the Labor Market Information Department are available on the MDES website with the exception of one tri-fold publication. Due to the design of the publication we feel that it is best to continue to create and mail or to provide this publication through exhibits where agency personnel are present.

(5) Partner and consult on a continuing basis with workforce investment boards

During PY 2012, Labor Market Information had ongoing phone conversations with the Workforce Investment Area directors. We discussed information that is already available and additional information we could produce for them. We have continued to produce occupational projections, industry employment projections, labor force statistics, and occupational wage estimates for each of the workforce investment areas within Mississippi and will continue to provide requested information for inclusion in the annual plans for the state and local boards. During the upcoming year we will explore opportunities to expand our capabilities in this area.

Customer Consultation

During PY 2012, the Labor Market Information Department continued tracking the various requests for data. An electronic log is maintained to document the various customer types that request data, what was requested, and how it was resolved. This has proven to be a valuable resource to assist us in identifying areas where communication or outreach needs to be improved. It also has proven to be useful in documenting the wide variety of customers and the frequency of the requests. LMI staff provided data to the MS Economic Council. We discussed available data and any data needs that they might have. In addition, we have met directly with several customers requesting data and have identified areas where data can be consolidated to provide better reports and information that will be more useful to various groups.

We have continued to monitor usage of website publications. For PY 2012, Labor Market Information web pages and publications received over 109,000 hits on the MDES website.

Recommendations for Improvements or Changes to the Deliverables

The Mississippi Labor Market Information Department has no recommendations at this time.