

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**  
**LMI WEBINAR**  
**September 25, 2008**

**Question:** How do you collect unemployment data on those who have not registered for unemployment benefits?

**Answer:** The household survey that is conducted by the Census Bureau is the primary mechanism for collecting information used to produce the unemployment rate for the state of Michigan. The methodology used to produce the unemployment rate for counties and metro areas does use some information on claimants, which are coded by their place of residency. However there are other informational sources used to identify those who are not receiving benefits. For example we have data on individuals who may run out of benefits but remain unemployed. We also have estimates on things like the self employed that will not show up on our survey of businesses. We also make estimates of the number of unemployed who are new entrants or reentrants to the labor market. So there are a variety of data sources that we use to estimate the individual components of the employed and unemployed for local areas.

**Question:** Is there a place to get a break down of the subgroups of "Not in Labor Force"?

**Answer:** The best place would be the Bureau of Labor Statistics site. They put out a pretty long press release the first Friday of every month. In that press release you will find a bunch of tables, some of which deal with persons who are not in the labor force. It will actually show you the relative sizes of each of those groups. It will also show you how many discouraged workers there are in the U.S. and if those workers were counted as unemployed how that would affect the unemployment rate.

**Question:** Is there a way to get a handle on growth jobs in the very near term - within the next six months for example.

**Answer:** Look at the trends in industry employment over the last six months. In other words, if you can identify what industries in your local economy have added jobs in the last six months, this will give you a good sense of what the existing trends are. It is likely that given the particularly sluggish state of Michigan's economy, those very industries are probably the sectors that are going to be the primary sources of jobs through the next six months. Also on our website [www.michigan.gov/lmi](http://www.michigan.gov/lmi), you will be able to find long term (2014) and short term (2009) forecasts. The 2009 occupational forecasts are for Michigan only; while the 2014 forecasts are available for your region. However, the 2009 forecasts will give you a good sense of the relative expected job growth rates in the short-term among job titles in Michigan.

**Question:** Isn't it true that most jobs are with little employers, not big ones?

**Answer:** The largest numbers of jobs come from large employers. However, it is true that the bulk of job growth often comes from small employers. Bigger companies are relatively mature and have often reached their employment limit. So in terms of job growth much of it does come from small and medium sized employers.

**Question:** Is there a source for information on layoffs involving fewer than 50 workers?

**Answer:** There is no single list that reflects all the layoffs and closings that have occurred for small employers. The estimates we produce on jobs by industry do reflect employers of all sizes. If you look at our industry data you can tell which industries are losing the most jobs in Michigan. That data reflects small, medium and large firms. So if you are trying to figure out which sectors in your region are cutting the most jobs, you could use that information because it doesn't exclude small firms. However if you are trying to find out the exact firm names of the companies in your counties which have cut jobs in the past year, that is more difficult to do. What you could do is contact LMI and ask for the change in employment for a specific county over the last year among firms who employ fewer than 10 workers. We could at least tell you what the employment trend has been among small firms.

**Question:** Where do we find a list of emerging industries by region?

**Answer:** Generally an emerging sector is defined as sector that is relatively small but is rapidly growing. We have lists of high demand industries on our website, but we don't have a document that uses that term and tries to talk about emerging sectors. There are studies on emerging sectors done by private consultants, and you may find some research reports on federal websites like the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Those may talk about smaller sectors, but what you won't find is a real consensus of what the emerging industries are in an area, and how they are exactly defined.

**Question:** Is the film industry a small sector? We are getting a lot of questions about the new training at HFCC. What occupation titles come out of this industry?

**Answer:** Jason Palmer, one of DLEG's regional economic analysts, has been looking into the film industry, so there is some data on this particular industry. It is a fairly modest industry in Michigan, but with the new tax incentives that have been passed there has been a tremendous increase in activity in this sector. So it is an industry that has some significant potential for job growth. We do have some detailed industry data, and forecasts related to the film production process, so if you would like that information please contact Bruce Weaver at [weaverb1@michigan.gov](mailto:weaverb1@michigan.gov).

**Question:** Is the Veteran population included in the affirmative action report?

**Answer:** No, it is not. The affirmative action report allows employers to compare the percentage of women and minorities in their particular firm with those of the region in which they are located. In terms of information on jobs and the unemployment rate for Veterans, there is some annual data we receive from

the USDOL. There is also some limited data from the Census Bureau on the employment status of Veterans.

**Question:** How recent is the LED data?

**Answer:** The LED data is, at this point, is available for 2007 and prior years. So it is not available as yet for any quarters in 2008. However, you should keep in mind that these commuting patterns do not change substantially in the short term. So the information is current enough to give you a good picture of what the commuting patterns are in these regions. There is also a table that you can view that illustrates a lot of economic variables for these workers.

**Question:** Could there be a collaborative effort between ProjectMove, LVERS, DVOWs, SOM LMI, and GI Jobs.net to pinpoint local top veteran friendly employers by MWA region?

**Answer:** We would certainly be willing to talk with those of you who would be interested in pursuing that.

**Question:** Is there some type of directory that lists all of these data sets and resources?

**Answer:** The best directory that we have would be the Labor Market Information Quick Reference Guide. However, because it is a publication and we have such a huge amount of information it is by no means a complete directory of all of these resources. However it is helpful and describes key resources and gives you some step by step directions on how to find the information you need. You can download that publication at [www.michigan.gov/lmi](http://www.michigan.gov/lmi).

**Question:** Can we get information on new employers in the area/type of jobs etc?

**Answer:** Some of our information on specific companies is confidential because it comes from surveys or tax records. We are unable to publish employer names from those sources. However, our website has a Find Employers module that you may find useful. This database is produced by Info USA and some of you may know it as the ALMIS Employer database. This is a large data base of private employers. It not only gives you names of employers it also gives you what industry they are in, phone number, contact name, as well as additional contact information. You can find that by going to our website and clicking on the Local Area Information link and then on the Find Employer link. We also send out a CD containing that information twice a year to certain Michigan Works! agencies that have signed a license agreement.

**Question:** What percent of growth is considered to be an In Demand occupation?

**Answer:** That is a subjective definition. Growth rates are quite different region by region. For example, if the expected job growth rate for all occupations in your region is 8 percent, you could define an in-demand occupation as any occupation with a growth rate of 11 percent or higher. Another approach is to look at the number of job openings expected per year in an occupation, and define in-demand occupations as those that generate high numbers of annual openings.

**Question:** You mentioned providing training. Are a specific number of trainees required?

**Answer:** No not really. We have a limited staff but have done presentations for both large groups, and relatively small groups. If that is something that you are interested in please feel free to contact us, and we can discuss the options.