

Workforce Information Core Products and Services

West Virginia's Annual Performance Report

Program Year 2023

This annual Performance Report was produced in August 2024 and published on the Research, Information and Analysis website in September 2024.

During Program Year 2023, the Research, Information and Analysis (RIA) Division of WorkForce West Virginia continued to meet its goals of producing and disseminating labor market information in accordance with requirements outlined in the Workforce Information Grant. Throughout PY23, staff continued meeting the data needs of workforce development boards, economic development authorities, colleges and universities, state lawmakers, and vocational and career counselors. RIA has assisted grant writers and others who help West Virginians re-enter the state's workforce.

Annual Economic Analysis Review

The West Virginia 2023 Economic Review has been prepared for the governor and the state workforce development boards. This report was made available in September 2024 to all data users via the division's website.

The West Virginia 2023 Economic Review contains:

A summary of state economic activity in Calendar Year 2023

Economic indicators, including real gross domestic product and per capita personal income

Nonfarm payroll employment

Economic data for the state, counties, and workforce development regions

Employment and wage data

Average hours and earnings at the state level

Top 100 largest private employers in West Virginia

Population changes by county

Industry and occupational group projections summary

Labor force participation rates for state and counties

A snapshot of economic data for the state and its seven workforce development regions, including industry sector breakouts, population, largest employers, labor force, nonfarm payroll employment, and wage data.

Special Studies and Economic Analyses

Monthly, quarterly, and annual reports are prepared measuring unemployment insurance activities such as initial claims, weeks claimed, weeks compensated, and benefits paid, and their impact on the Unemployment Insurance trust fund. These data are shared with other state agencies including the West Virginia Board of Risk and Insurance Management.

During Program Year 2023, a Workforce Development Survey was created seeking feedback from employers regarding the job readiness of West Virginia's labor force, employee recruitment and retention, and workforce development practices. Postcards containing instructions on accessing the survey were sent to all employers in the state. A link to the survey is available at <https://www.workforce.org>. The responses from the survey are currently being processed.

During Program Year 2023, a Detached Worker Survey was created with the intention of identifying former WorkForce West Virginia clients who may have become detached from the workforce. A telephone survey was conducted, in which individuals were asked if they are currently employed or unemployed. Individuals were also asked about possible barriers to finding employment, such as transportation or childcare issues. The survey should wrap up within the next few weeks, and data from the survey will then be compiled and disseminated.

Workforce Information Database

The Workforce Information Database (WID) is updated throughout the program year as new or revised data become available. Data from the WID are used for various data requests, as well as to populate many of the Tableau visualizations contained on our website. We migrated to version 2.8 of the WID during PY2019, and version 2.8 has been integrated into our website and Tableau visualizations. In PY21, the WID was migrated to SQL Server but is also currently available via the Microsoft Access Database. WID 3.0 will be released in PY24 or PY25. WFWV programmers are currently working on a new RIA website that will employ mostly freeware to do visualizations. This will also allow downloading of data from the website.

Post Products, Information, and Reports on Our Website

The Research, Information and Analysis website is the primary portal through which our labor market data are disseminated. The various products, information, and reports can be located at our main website and include:

Current employment statistics counties, metropolitan statistical areas, workforce development regions, the state of West Virginia, and the nation. The site also links to labor market information websites of other states.

Top employers for the state, counties and workforce development areas. At the state level, the 100 largest private employers are provided. Exact employment numbers are not provided due to confidentiality, but employment ranges are provided. Both private and public employers are provided for counties and regions, the top 10 for counties and the top 25 for workforce development regions.

Data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) including historical data

Two-year (2022-2024) and ten-year (2022-2032) occupational projections

Short-term and long-term industry projections

Nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses (SOII) and fatal occupational injuries (CFOI) data

Monthly data on UI claimants

Special tools and visualizations, such as employment volatility and job-to-job flows, and occupational heat and tree maps

Customer consultation of workforce information and products

The Research, Information and Analysis division has consulted or continues to consult with other state and local economic development authorities, such as the West Virginia Department of Education, West Virginia University, Marshall University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the West Virginia Rural Health Association, The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, the Community and Technical College System of West Virginia, The West Virginia Center for Budget and Policy, the WV Solid Waste Authority, and state, county, and city government entities.

Local boards use labor market information in their efforts to identify, attract, and foster emergent and growing industries and businesses. The data are also used to assist in the

education and training of the local workforce, to assist jobseekers in finding employment that provides a sustainable wage, and to match the available labor pool with the businesses that seek to set up shop within the state. Also, Research, Information and Analysis annually assists the West Virginia Department of Highways with a traffic analysis.

Partner on a continuing basis with workforce development boards

The Research, Information and Analysis Division of WorkForce West Virginia works closely with all seven of the state's workforce development boards to supply data and meet specialized or customized data requests. Typically, labor market information being sought consists of in-demand occupations, wage data, commuting patterns, and labor pool information used to assist employers seeking to locate in West Virginia, or to assist employers already located within the state who are seeking to expand. In the past, some workforce development boards have participated in innovative endeavors, such as customized reports regarding occupational wages. Research, Information and Analysis staff are sometimes asked to present data at quarterly workforce development board meetings that include discussions and presentations on such topics as youth unemployment, labor shortages, and skills gaps. (See section on activities and training.)

WorkForce West Virginia also works closely with the West Virginia Development Office, providing information (such as Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data in electronic format) to assist employers who contemplate locating within the state, thus aiding in job creation and economic development. Research, Information and Analysis is contacted by the Development Office frequently, many of the requests involving industry employment and wage data. Participation in the Data Labs project mentioned in the activities and training section came about through association with the WV Development Office.

Much data (such as QCEW, total nonfarm payroll employment, and unemployment rates) continue to be produced for counties, metropolitan statistical areas, and workforce development regions, thus creating a body of valuable labor market information for data seekers. In-Demand Occupations by workforce development region are well received by the statewide boards and continue to be among the most frequently requested data by them and other data users.

Research, Information and Analysis contributes labor market information to the State Plan and assists workforce development region staff members in completing their regional plans by providing labor market information and proofreading sections of their plans, thus assisting these staff in meeting WIOA deliverables.

Activities and Training During Program Year (PY) 2023

Assisted UI Division staff of WorkForce West Virginia in creating a short-time compensation survey letter for employers.

Assisted UI Division staff of WorkForce West Virginia in creating questions for an Employer Satisfaction Survey. Data from this survey are still being processed as of this writing.

Along with employees from various state agencies, the RIA director participated in a Design Data Project with Data Labs and Georgetown University. The goal of the project was to create and organize a cross-agency website to assist law makers and job seekers searching for workforce-related data. Participants met virtually over a period of several months. As of this writing, the cross-agency website is not complete.

Conducted the annual H-2A agricultural survey via telephone and email during the last week of September 2023. The response was poor, and in Calendar year 2024, RIA has been working with Foreign Labor Certification (FLC) staff to improve the response rate of the survey.

Conducted a presentation on 30 January 2024 with Workforce Development staff at the WV Forestry Division winter meeting. Approximately 60 individuals associated with the logging and timbering industry were present. The presentation included employment projections for the logging industry.

Research, Information and Analysis continues to partner with The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation and its Community and Economic Development committee. Quarterly meetings are held to oversee funding of community and economic development programs.

The Higher Education Policy Commission continues to use RIA data for its WV Invests program.

During Program Year 2023, RIA began collecting data from employers for the enhanced wage program. The RIA assistant director developed an enhanced wage form in PY21 to send to employers. Data from employers will be entered into a database before the close of calendar year 2024. West Virginia state law requires employers to submit this data quarterly.

Created and conducted a Detached Worker Survey to determine if former clients of WFWV have found and retained employment. Survey questions also address barriers to finding and maintaining employment. The Division has nearly reached its response goal, and data from the survey will be released in Program Year 2024.

Presented information regarding the RIA Division's Detached Worker Survey during the annual State LMI Director's meeting in May 2024. This meeting was attended by LMI directors and BLS employees from across the country.

RIA works regularly with the Unemployment Insurance (UI) division to establish a weekly benefit amount for the new Program and Fiscal years.

Employment and wage data for the recycling industry are supplied annually to the Public Service Commission.

A West Virginia Occupation Code Almanac was created and placed on the WorkForce West Virginia website. This almanac was created to assist employers submitting enhanced wage data. The link is: <https://workforcewv.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Manual-plus-Cover-created-3012024.pdf>

Recommendations to ETA for changes and improvements to WIGS requirements

Currently, the Research, Information and Analysis Division of WorkForce West Virginia offers no recommendations for changes or improvements to WIG requirements.

Disclaimer

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