

## Finding Labor Market Information

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2008

Helping youth get jobs in high-growth, high-demand, high-paying industries is one of the goals of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). It is incumbent upon WIA youth services professionals to know about the job market in their community and to use that information when helping youth make decisions about their futures. WIA youth services staff may help youth use labor market information either to meet long-term employment goals or to meet youths' immediate need for a job.

In addition to labor market information, information about the population, housing availability, transportation, and other services is important. If youth are to become productive members of a community, the community must be able to meet all of their needs.

How do you find that information? It can be difficult if you don't know where to look for it. Fortunately, there are a number of excellent websites that provide much information about what is going on in states, regions, and counties. Following is information about some of those websites.

### The Ohio Workforce Informer

The Ohio Workforce Informer (<http://www.ohioworkforceinformer.org/cgi/databrowsing/localAreaProQSSelection.asp?menuChoice=localAreaPro>) allows you to select a county, and then it provides a wealth of information about the county.

- Employment and wages
  - Unemployment rate
  - Current employment statistics
  - Fast-growing occupations
  - Fast-growing industries
  - High-wage occupations
- Population and census data
  - Population
  - Income type
  - Commuting patterns
- Economic indicators
  - Consumer Price Index
  - Building permits
  - Property values
  - Tax information
- General information
  - Job openings
  - Training providers
  - Employers by occupation
  - Employers by industry
  - Local area comparisons

The Ohio Department of Development provides information by county (<http://www.odod.state.oh.us/research/files/s0.htm>) that includes the following.

- Employment and wages by sector
- Major employers
- Taxes
- Largest areas
- Population
  - By race
  - By age
- Educational attainment
- Family type
- Poverty status
- Ratio of income to poverty level
- Household income
- Housing units
- Vital statistics
- Education
- Crime
- Transportation
- Health care
- Communications
- Federal expenditures
- Per capita personal income

The Ohio Department of Development also provides information by Ohio Economic Development Regions (<http://www.odod.state.oh.us/Regionals.htm>). Select the region from the map and then click on Region Profile to view information in these categories.

- Employment
  - Employers
  - Civilian labor force
  - Employment by industry
- Population
- Income
- Construction and building permits
- Private investment
- Loan and grants
- Education
  - 4-year colleges and universities
  - University branch campuses
  - Community and technical colleges
  - Schools of nursing
  - Educational attainment

### State Occupational Projections at Projections Central

A national website, Projections Central ([http://www.projectionscentral.com/lt\\_search.aspx](http://www.projectionscentral.com/lt_search.aspx)) allows you to select a state and then provides information on employment projections for all occupations. Search results show

- 2004 employment
- 2014 employment
- Numeric employment change
- Percent employment change
- Average annual openings

Ohio Labor Market Information (<http://lmi.state.oh.us/>) offers a great deal of information about the labor market. A drop-down box labeled Data & Publications includes links to many resources.

- Current employment by industry
- Employment and wages by industry
- Employment projections by occupation and industry
- Leading economic indicators
- Mass layoff statistics
- Occupational wages and employment
- Occupational profiles
- Research publications
- State of Ohio workforce
- Unemployment claims and benefits statistics
- Unemployment rates and labor force statistics
- Wage information
- Workforce analysis

### Ohio's Workforce Information Center: Job Seekers

Ohio's Workforce Information Center: Job Seekers (<http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/jobseekers/index.stm>) links to the Ohio job-matching site, OhioMeansJobs (<https://ohiomeansjobs.com/omj/>) as well as to other job banks, employers, and career centers (<https://ohiomeansjobs.com/>). Information is available in these categories.

- Career advice
  - Apprenticeships and on-the-job training
  - Career search
  - Military careers
  - State job listings
  - Websites for youth
- Employment data
  - Employment and wages by industry
  - Employment and wages by Ohio and metropolitan areas
  - Current unemployment rates
- Job data
  - Career resources and job videos
  - Current wage data
  - Job trends
  - Job profiles
  - Job codes (O\*Net Online)
  - Projected job employment
- Recruitment and training sources
  - Career centers
  - Colleges
  - LearningExpress Library
- Other information
  - Job banks
  - Employer locator
  - Internet job search guide
  - Blueprint for job placement

### Making Labor Market Information Available to Youth

The information found in these websites should be kept in a labor market information notebook for all staff and youth to use. A leadership development activity for youth could be to do their own labor market research and, in the process, update the labor market information notebook.

- Ohio Department of Development. (n.d.) *Ohio county profiles*. Columbus, OH: Author. Retrieved September 30, 2008, from <http://www.odod.state.oh.us/research/files/s0.htm>
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- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. (n.d.). *Ohio labor market information*. Columbus, OH: Bureau of Labor Market Information. Retrieved September 30, 2008, from <http://lmi.state.oh.us/>
- Ohio Workforce Information Center. (n.d.). *Ohio Workforce Information Center: Job seekers*. Columbus, OH: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Retrieved November 20, 2008, from <http://jfs.ohio.gov/workforce/jobseekers/index.stm>

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