

Annual Performance Report
West Virginia
Workforce Information Core Products and Services
Program Year 2006

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

The WID Version 2.3 has endured as a key element in all labor market information endeavors including training activities. The current system was adopted during PY06 and the database has been populated with core tables 100%. Our Virtual LMI system provides a platform for the WID database and allows our customer's access to the information twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

2. Produce and disseminate industry and occupational employment projections.

Standard Consortium and MicroMatrix methodology and software were used to construct short-term and long-term projections. Projections for industries and occupations have been produced for the state and seven workforce investment areas and are accessible through the Division's traditional web site as well as the interactive Virtual Labor Market Information web site. The time frames included are 2006-2008 for the short term and 2004-2014 for the long term.

3. Publish an annual economic analysis report for the governor and the SWIB.

The Division has produced a detailed review and analysis of the current makeup of the state's economy including data for specific workforce investment regions and metropolitan areas. This overview of the performance and composition of the State's economic makeup is intended to support and inform those involved in investment decisions and establishing economic policy such as the Governor, State Workforce Investment Boards, Local Workforce Investment Boards, and other groups involved in trade, industry, and economic improvement. The report has been distributed to those interested groups and maintained and made available on the Division's web site for other organizations or persons.

4. Post products, information, and reports on the Internet.

The Division's standard web site and its Virtual Labor Market Information site are hosts to economic and socioeconomic products that include the most current and comprehensive labor market information and career data. The more contemporary Virtual LMI site is designed with the individual in the state workforce system in mind and provides the latest and most thorough career oriented information. The conventional web site is updated repeatedly with current labor market information and statistics and provides a stage for special economic reports and analyses. Although the State population is slightly more than 1.8 million, both web sites typically exceed more than one million hits each year, including PY06.

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

The Research, Information and Analysis Division collaborates regularly in meetings and communicate frequently by email and telephone with the workforce investment boards and their representatives. Their consultation is sought and used as guidance to help determine the most productive and efficient use of the latest labor market information and the most recent projects the Division is developing. Data and reports produced for the state are also generated and adapted for the boards and typically include information specific to their regions.

6. Conduct special studies and economic analyses.

Although the Research, Information and Analysis Division is formally charged with the responsibility of producing specific reports and analyses through its agreement with the U. S. Department of Labor, other data analyses and special reports are produced outside the normal grant requirements. These studies and reports are produced for a specific economic event or activity or may be generated as a result of a data request from government policy makers and economic development organizations. These reports include studies on state government spending and budgets, state government legislation, regional economic studies of declining industries, the impact of rapid population growth on local economies and the evolution of old industries into new industries.

Customer Consultation of Workforce Information and Products

Throughout the program year the Division normally takes the opportunity during meetings and during individual contact with the boards and its members to obtain their input regarding the quality and usefulness of its workforce information and products. This process of acquiring input on new services, products, and the introduction of new projects has been very effective and will continue. This practice is supplemented with surveys of all data users in the form of mail-outs and electronic questionnaires, with the recommendations collected and included in product and services development.