# On The Map Q&A about Version 2 (V2)

**Local Employment Dynamics** — **All About Jobs**

**Q. What is *On The Map*?**
*On The Map* is a web-based, interactive mapping and reporting application. The objective is to show where people work and where workers live on maps with companion reports on their age, earnings, industry distributions, and local workforce indicators. The inaugural version of *On The Map* was released in February 2006.

**Q. Who is eligible to participate in *On The Map*?**
Any state, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories that has joined the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) partnership with the Census Bureau is eligible to participate in *On The Map V2*. The state partner must have been supplying the required wage records and will be under regular production of Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) on or before June 1, 2007. There are 43 eligible LED state partners as of October 1, 2006.

**Q. What is the cost to a LED state partner?**
Development of *On The Map V2* is supported by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA). Except for three states that committed to On The Map V2 prior to the ETA agreement, there is no additional cost to the LED state partners.

**Q. What is a LED state partner expected to do?**
*On The Map* is a product derived from the LED data infrastructure so there are relatively few additional requirements. The state partners must provide timely wage record data and ensure their high quality as part of the QWI regular production process. They are also encouraged to participate in the testing of beta product(s) under development.

**Q. What are cross-state patterns and what do they cover?**
The initial implementation of On The Map V2 will permit the mapping and reporting of workers who are employed in a selected state but living in another state. Travel shed maps will show the out-of-state location of those incoming workers, and reports will indicate the primary cities, counties, and states of origin. A later enhancement will include those workers that live in a selected state and work in another state.

**Q. What does it mean to retrofit with 2002-2003 data?**
*On The Map V1* depicts only within-state origin-destination patterns with 2002-2003 data. Illinois and Missouri completed successfully a pilot project within a pilot project that developing and displaying cross-state patterns is feasible across multiple states. *On The Map V2* will not only implement cross-state patterns as default with 2004 data but also update 2002-2003 data with cross-state patterns.

**Q. What period do the annual data represent?**
The annual data cover April 1 to June 30 - the second quarter of the corresponding year.

**Q. Where do you get the geographical definitions?**
Recognized standard data sources will continue to be used in the development of **On The Map**.  For example, congressional districts and military facilities will be obtained from the Census Bureau.  One-Stop shops and related information will be derived from the American Service Locator System provided by ETA.

**Q. How are the states selected for the different tentative release dates?**
Three states committed to **On The Map V2** with funding prior to the agreement with ETA.  They receive top priority.  The next group of 14 states includes the remaining pilot states participating in **On The Map V1**.  The next group of 17 states is under the QWI regular production schedule.  The last group of 10 states represents the most recent or new LED partner states.

**Q. Will there be any system requirements?**
On The Map is a high definition, intensive data processing application.  It is recommended that you use
- A computer with at least 256MB RAM, a high performance graphics card, and a monitor with at least 1280x1024 resolution;
- An Internet browser such as Firefox version 1.0 or higher, Internet Explorer version 6.0 or higher, or Netscape version 7.1 or higher, with *Popup Blocker* turned off; and
- Download access speed of at least 500Kb/s.

**Q. Are the 2002 and 2003 employment counts and profiles for a selected area likely to change as a result of these enhancements?**
Yes, we expect to see some minor changes due to a more complete accounting of cross-state employment, more accurate geographic referencing, and implementation of new generation QWI data modeling and disclosure proofing.

**Q. Who do we contact for more information?**
Send an email to dsd.local.employment.dynamics@census.gov or Jeremy.S.Wu@census.gov.