

Nebraska Workforce Information Grant Report PY 2019

Introduction & Background Information

Workforce Information Grant (WIG) activities in Nebraska are carried out by the Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL), Office of Labor Market Information (LMI). The WIG team for the State of Nebraska is located in the state administrative office building of NDOL in Lincoln, Nebraska.

PY19 Workforce Information Grant Staff

At the beginning of PY19, there were five permanent staff on the WIG team: four research analysts and a research supervisor. Following the retirement of the LMI office research administrator, the research supervisor was promoted to research administrator, and an analyst from the OES program became the current research supervisor.

Throughout the year, research analysts from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) programs also provided support to WIG staff.

PY19 Workforce Information Grant Deliverables

The following pages report a brief review, by deliverable, of work completed during PY2019.

i. Workforce Information Database (WID)

The Workforce Information Database (WID) provides states with a common structure for storing information in a single database. This database is intended to serve as the cornerstone for information delivery, workforce research, and product development for information that is standard and comparable across all states. Wages in the WID are from the Local Employment and Wage Information System (LEWIS) in order to provide users with the most current data possible.

Nebraska uses Geographic Solutions as its website vendor to provide data-loading tools and publish data on the public-facing NEworks website. WID data can be accessed directly on the NEworks website at

<http://neworks.nebraska.gov>.

Nebraska maintains and updates the core and optional database tables, as designated by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) under the State Workforce Information Grant. All look-up tables and other necessary updates to ensure that data displays correctly on the NEworks website are also maintained.

Nebraska is required to submit occupational licensing tables to the National Crosswalk Service Center for updates to America's Career Info Net (ACINET) on a biennial basis. Nebraska submitted its updated files in June 2019. The next update is scheduled for PY20.

ii. Industry & Occupational Projections

In PY19, short-term (2019-2021) industry and occupational projections were produced for the Nebraska Statewide region and nine sub-state areas. Long-term industry and occupational projections (2018-2028) were produced for the Nebraska Statewide and nine sub-state areas were primarily developed in PY19 and released at the beginning of PY20 in July 2020.

Industry Projections

Short-term (2019-2021) industry projections for the nine sub-state areas were completed in March 2020. Industry projections data is available in Excel worksheets that may be downloaded by customers via the “Data Download Center” page in NEworks at <http://neworks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=433>.

Long-term (2018-2028) industry projections for Nebraska Statewide and nine sub-state areas were completed in July 2020. Nebraska chooses to create and release long-term projections for statewide and sub-state areas at the same time, so that customers in the local areas are not forced to wait an extra year for sub-state projections to be produced. Industry projections data is available in Excel worksheets that may be downloaded by customers via the “Data Download Center” page in NEworks at <http://neworks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=433>.

Employment projections are used by the Nebraska Business Forecasting Council, a group of economists from the University of Nebraska- Lincoln, the University of Nebraska- Omaha, Creighton University, the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), NDOL, and the Nebraska Department of Revenue. This group meets twice per year to create a business forecast for the state of Nebraska. Biannual reports, which include forecasts of industry and economic growth in the state, are published in January and June.

Occupational Projections

Short-term (2019-2021) occupational projections for Nebraska Statewide and nine sub-state areas were completed in March 2020. The statewide projections were directly uploaded to a server in Utah utilizing the Projections Suite (PS) software, per the ETA deliverable process instructions. Projections were also uploaded for inclusion on the projections central website (<http://projectionscentral.com>) through the PS software. Occupational projections are also available on the NEworks website at <http://neworks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=433>.

Long-term (2018-2028) occupational projections for Nebraska Statewide and the nine sub-state areas were completed in July 2020. The statewide projections were directly uploaded to a server in Utah utilizing the Projections Suite (PS) software, per the ETA deliverable process instructions. Projections were also uploaded for inclusion on the projections central website through the PS software. Occupational projections are also available on the NEworks website at <http://neworks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=433>.

Projections information is provided to state and local Workforce Investment Boards (WIB), agency staff, and customers via the NEworks website. Projections data has been integrated into the NEworks website to provide job seekers with information at the point of service as they complete job search activities and view employer job postings. Data is available through Excel worksheets that may be downloaded by customers via the “Data Download Center” page in NEworks at <http://neworks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=433>.

WIG staff also utilized various elements of the projections data in writing several articles in NDOL’s monthly Nebraska Workforce Trends publication. WIG staff members are available for presentations and consultations to assist in accurate interpretation of the data for use in workforce planning and decision-making.

Projections are also incorporated into a variety of publications and products produced by NDOL. These are detailed throughout this report.

PMP Committee Service

One WIG staff member also served on two of the Projections Managing Partnership (PMP) committees during FY19, and continues to do so through the present.

Projections Managing Partnership (PMP) Product & Process Innovation Committee

This committee focuses on technical matters related to projections outputs and the processes recommended by the PMP to develop said outputs. The goal of this committee is to provide guidance for states to create the highest-quality and most relevant projections data for customers. Staff have participated in several conference call meetings with this committee. Recent topics of discussion included the impact of the new occupational separations methodology to estimate future job openings on states, mid-term projections, labor force projections, and the feasibility of states doing annual long-term projections.

NDOL customers have often expressed the desire to see alternative time frames for projections in addition to the currently produced two and ten year ones. One WIG staff member was part of the pilot study for developing a new mid-term projections methodology. They participated in several calls throughout the project, reviewed data produced by the different methodologies, and tested the projections software after this new method was incorporated.

PMP Training Committee

This committee focuses on how to best deliver training to projections analysts throughout the country. One WIG staff member has been very active on this committee and has worked with the committee to help develop the agenda for the annual PMP Summit as well as participating in the summit as a presenter. They were a co-presenter for a webinar in July 2019 on projections basics.

In May of 2020, the training committee organized the Projections Analysts Open Forum call to discuss the challenges to the projections due to COVID-19. WIG staff was one of three analysts asked to share their state's experiences to kick-start the discussion.

iii. LMI Training for Service Delivery

WIG staff attended numerous trainings and conferences during PY19. These are detailed below.

Conferences

In July 2019, two WIG staff members attended the Governor's Economic Development Summit.

In August 2019, five WIG staff members attended the Nebraska State Data Center Conference, sponsored by the Center for Public Affairs Research at the University of Nebraska - Omaha. This conference focused on workforce and socio-economic data, Census updates, population trends, and other relevant topics. One staff member presented at two sessions at this event.

One WIG staff members completed Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt training. The Lean Six Sigma program was implemented by Nebraska's Governor Pete Ricketts to institute process efficiencies.

In September 2019, one WIG staff member attended the Local Employment Dynamics Workshop at the Census headquarters in Suitland, Maryland. The workshop brings together the LED data partners, Census Bureau staff, the research and policy communities, and data users from a broad spectrum of public and private organizations, to discuss the direction of the program and better align the goals of the partners, data users, and the public. Nebraska participates in this program as a data partner and submitted data to the Census throughout PY19.

In September 2019, one WIG staff member attended the Projections Managing Partnership (PMP) Summit, held in Arlington, Virginia. This staff member was also a trainer for the pre-summit webinar "Prelude to Projections". She presented on short-term and long-term industry projections and provided technical training on using the

projections software to develop these projections. During the summit, they presented a session titled “Best Practices in Cleaning Employment Time Series Data”.

In February 2020, one staff member attended the Nebraska Worker Training Board meeting. The focus of this meeting was to review the program guidelines. One of the guidelines currently in place uses H3 data and LMI was asked to attend to provide information about the H3 guidelines.

In June 2020, two WIG staff members attended the online training “R Programming for Beginners: Using Data Science for Economic and Workforce Development Researchers”. This was a two-week training was sponsored by C2ER/LMI Institute and was conducted live via Zoom. The class also consisted of homework and online tutorials in between sessions.

LinkedIn Learning Trainings

The State of Nebraska offers staff the opportunity to participate in online trainings through LinkedIn Learning (formerly Lynda.com).

During PY19, WIG staff completed online trainings in a variety of topics, including:

- Learning WebEx
- Adobe Illustrator Essentials
- Creating Interactive Tableau Dashboards
- Excel for Data Analysis
- Time Management

Webinars

Throughout the year, WIG staff also attended a variety of webinar training sessions, including:

July 2019

- WorkforceGPS: WIOA State Plans and Labor Market Information (LMI) Best Practices
- LED: What Causes Labor Turnovers to Vary

September 2019

- WorkforceGPS: 2018-28 Employment Projections from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

October 2019

- UNL BBR Webinar Series: How to Use 2019 Nebraska Thriving Index
- LED: Recent Updates to Lodes and OnTheMap

November 2019

- C2ER & Census Bureau: Introducing the Census Bureau's Business Formation Statistics

December 2019

- C2ER & Census Bureau: Recent Updates to Job-to-Job Flows Explorer on Job Hopping Across Cities
- UNL BBR Webinar Series: The Nebraska Economic Forecast.

January 2020

- Chmura: From Kids to Careers: LMI in K-12 Public Education

March 2020

- NDOL: UI Adjudicator Training

April 2020

- LED Webinar Series: Combining Census Data with OpenStreetMap Data to Develop Highway Access Measures

May 2020

- UNL BBR Webinar Series: The Nebraska Economic Forecast
- Census Bureau: Statistics of Army Veterans Transitioning into the Civilian Labor Market
- Federal Reserve Board: Highlights of the Seventh Annual Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households, Featuring Supplemental Data from April 2020

June 2020

- Census Bureau: New Microdata Access Tool for ACS and CPS
- LED Webinar Series: COVID 19 Demographic and Economic Resources Using Census Data
- State of Nebraska: Ask the Experts: Working from Home
- SWIS Orientation Training

iv. Annual Economic Analysis & Other Reports

Statewide Annual Economic Analysis

LMI's annual Nebraska Economic Insight and Outlook Report (EIOR) was compiled throughout PY19 and completed in September 2020. This report was provided to the Governor's office, State Workforce Board members, and other internal and external data customers. The EIOR contains a variety of demographic and labor market data for the state. Topics covered include population and demographic trends; educational attainment; labor supply; benefits, wages, and compensation; and industry and occupational projections.

The publication can be viewed or downloaded at

<https://networks.nebraska.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/Economic%20Insight%20and%20Outlook%202020.pdf>

Labor Availability Study (LAS)

The Nebraska Department of Labor has continued to collect, analyze, and disseminate labor availability information for FY19. LB1110, passed in the spring of 2016, states that, each fiscal year, three areas of Nebraska will be provided with labor availability reports based on surveys sent to local households and businesses, as well as a skills gap report utilizing the results of those surveys.

Funding for the Labor Availability Study (LAS) began with a federal grant, and the first pilot studies were funded through the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED) Manufacturing Extension Program. As part of the Sector Partnership Program, NDOL and NDED each initially transferred \$250,000 from the Job Training Cash Fund and \$250,000 from the Nebraska Training and Support Cash Fund. As of July 1, 2017, NDOL has continued to fund these important surveys through the use of the Nebraska Training and Support Cash Fund.

The LAS publications can be viewed or downloaded at <https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=802>.

Labor Availability Study - Household Survey

In PY19, WIG staff conducted studies to determine labor availability in the Panhandle, Southwest, and Central areas of Nebraska. The University of Nebraska's Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR) was contracted to help write the survey, determine sample sizes, print and mail the surveys, and process data entry for completed surveys. NDED contracted with WIG staff to help with survey development, defining survey areas, data cleaning and analysis, and the writing of the final reports. This study was funded by NDED, and thus helped to leverage WIG funding.

Reports for the Panhandle area were published in July 2020. Due to a reallocation of staff resources to assist with an unprecedented number of unemployment claims due to the Coronavirus pandemic, reports for the Southwest and Central areas will be published in fall 2020. Statewide labor availability studies focusing on the impact of the pandemic on labor availability are currently in progress. These studies will help to continue the partnership between NDOL and NDED, as well as the partnership between NDOL and BOSR.

Labor Availability Study - Employer Survey

NDOL also conducted studies on the workforce needs of employers in the Panhandle, Southwest, and Central areas. These studies focused on employers' views concerning their local-area labor markets, and any skill or training gaps they perceived in their workforce or applicant pools. The employer survey questionnaire was designed by WIG staff with assistance from the University of Nebraska's Bureau of Business Research (BBR) and BOSR, ensuring compatibility between the LAS employer and household surveys, so that potential disconnects between area workers and employers regarding worker skill and/or training gaps could be identified. WIG staff designed and laid out the questionnaire, printed and mailed the surveys, and were responsible for all data entry and cleaning efforts.

Labor Availability Study - Skills Gap Report

NDOL partnered with UNL's BBR to create skills gap reports utilizing the data collected through the household and employer labor availability surveys conducted in the Panhandle, Southwest, and Central areas. WIG staff delivered the data and BBR produced the reports.

Nebraska Workforce Trends

Nebraska Workforce Trends is a monthly publication filled with information about Nebraska's economy and labor markets. Each issue contains feature articles; current economic indicator data; a list of business openings and expansions; special content such "Map Facts" (articles in which interesting data about Nebraska are visualized on a map), "Fast Facts" (articles highlighting statistics and key facts about a new topic each month), or profiles of specific economic regions from around the state; as well as other useful information.

In FY19, disruptions caused by COVID-19 and the need to shift staff resources towards processing the resultant surge in UI claims led to the decision to consolidate the publication schedule into two combined issues, April/May and June/July. Beginning in August 2020, *Trends* has returned to its normal monthly release schedule.

This publication is sent to approximately 350 subscribers each month, with additional readers logging onto the website to read each issue. The subscriber list for Nebraska Workforce Trends includes the state's senators, WIB members, community leaders, economic developers, state educators, journalists, union representatives, and professionals from the business community.

Issues of Nebraska Workforce Trends can be viewed at <http://dol.nebraska.gov/Trends>.

Career Ladder Posters

LMI customers frequently ask for materials that highlight occupations in the state, and the Career Ladder posters are one of the most-requested printed products to help meet this customer need. The Career Ladder Posters are designed to educate individuals on possible career paths. The six posters correspond with the Career Clusters model adopted by Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). When designing these posters, staff used the same colors and symbols used by NDE to represent the clusters, so the posters integrate easily with other available career cluster resources.

The occupations in these posters are stratified by education level and features annual openings from projections and entry and average wages from OES. This tool can be used to assist students with career planning, as well as being useful to job-seeking customers as they make decisions about which types of careers they may want to pursue.

The posters can be found online at <https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=417>.

Licensed Occupations Publication

In June of 2019, WIG staff completed the process of updating occupational licensing information, and uploading this data to the WID. This is required every-other year; Nebraska's last update occurred in June of 2017. The next update is scheduled for summer 2020.

In addition to updating the licensing tables within the WID, Nebraska WIG staff also used the information collected to produce a directory of occupational licensing information, called *Licensed Occupations in Nebraska: 2019*. This publication was designed to be a simple and convenient 'one-stop-shop' for information on licensure requirements in Nebraska, organized by occupation. It includes all of the information contained in the WID tables, as well as direct hyperlinks to relevant sections of statutes, application forms, test registration sites, and other external locations that are commonly the 'next step' for individuals seeking licensure in Nebraska.

The *Licensed Occupations in Nebraska* publication is available to view or download at

<https://networks.nebraska.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/FINAL%202019%20Licensed%20Occupations%20Publication.pdf>

WIG staff implemented a number of significant process improvements when preparing the 2019 update. These efforts substantially increased efficiency and convenience for both the WIG staff working on this project, and licensing agency respondents who were asked to provide the necessary data. Process improvements included switching from paper response forms to electronic forms, eliminating the need for manual data entry and the risk of lost forms and transcription errors, and the creation of Excel formulas to automate several time-consuming elements of the process. For example, respondents were provided with digital copies of the information they submitted over the past several updates, and the new electronic form included check boxes that could be selected to indicate that the information collected during a previous update was still accurate; when this box was selected, the prior response to the indicated section would be automatically imported into the 2019 update from the database containing the responses from the appropriate previous year.

Graduate Outcomes

The Graduate Outcomes project matches data from participating postsecondary institutions to the Nebraska Department of Labor's administrative tax records. Results from the Graduate Outcomes project give a picture of recent graduates' earnings, industry employment, and work location and earnings over time. This data also includes information about which fields of study produce the graduates most likely to be employed in Nebraska, which fields of study produce the highest wages, in which Nebraska counties graduates are employed, and demographic characteristics of graduates.

Reports containing this information are returned to the postsecondary education institutions participating in the project. Through consultation with participating postsecondary institutions, LMI has developed a series of file formats designed to help institutions get their data imported into our system quickly, and developed reports that can be quickly generated with meaningful results for the participating institutions. LMI also produces custom reports upon request from a participating institution.

This information is used by job center case managers to assist people in making informed education and training decisions. The information could also be used by Chambers of Commerce, economic developers, and for program planning by institutions. PY15 was the first year that the graduate outcomes data was produced using the Nebraska Longitudinal Data System, funded by the Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) grant. NDOL currently has data-sharing agreements in place with 21 educational institutions located throughout Nebraska and western Iowa, as well as agreements with 8 other various state agencies and non-profits and 5 other states.

The information obtained from these education institutions and entities is also used by NDOL's Employment and Training office to determine eligibility for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Eligible Training Provider (ETP) list. At this time, these reports are not available online, because priority was given to ensuring participation in the WIOA ETP list.

A Tableau dashboard that displays the aggregated data publicly is available at

https://public.tableau.com/profile/ndollmi#!/vizhome/AllInstitutionsDashboard_15756673261810/Dashboard1

H3 – High Wage, High Demand, High Skill Occupations

Nebraska maintains a regularly updated list of high wage, high skill, and high demand (H3) occupations using data from the long-term occupational projections and OES wages. H3 occupations are one of LMI's most-requested data products, and are used in presentations, publications, data requests, and articles in Trends, helping to meet the customer need for occupational information. This list was updated in July 2018. The data is available through a dedicated H3 website (h3.ne.gov) that was redesigned in PY18 and launched in PY19. WIG staff have also added the data to the NEworks "Data Download Center" page, located at:

<https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=433>.

H3 data were also added to the Economic Development and Employer Planning System (EDPS) website for inclusion on the H3 section of the Supply and Demand website (<http://www.edeps.org/>).

The use of the H3 data as the basis for selecting occupations for inclusion in publications and career products has helped to strengthen the partnerships between NDOL and several other agencies. For example, the H3 occupations list is the basis of how occupations and businesses are selected to be included in the "Career Tour" Videos, which is a joint partnership between NDOL, NDED, and NDE. These videos can be found online here:

<https://www.nebraskacareerclusters.com/>.

Data Warehouse Participation

The data contained in the warehouse comes from a consultation process with each partner organization to build a universe that will meet both the partner's and LMI's individual reporting needs. The WDQI data warehouse includes data from 21 educational institutions located throughout Nebraska and western Iowa, as well as agreements with 8 other various state agencies and non-profits and 5 other states.

The education data in the warehouse is also being used for WIOA Eligible Training Provider performance information.

Other partners involved in the warehouse include the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Trainings; NDE's Adult Basic Education program; the Nebraska Departments of Motor Vehicles, Corrections, and Veterans Affairs; the University of Nebraska Criminal Justice Research Center; Indian Center, Inc.; and Avenue Scholars.

LMI also partners with the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) team to track career and technical education graduates into the workforce. Other partners with contracts or agreements in place include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Vocational Rehabilitation.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Products

LMI customers have often requested information on STEM occupations. Long-term occupational projections data were combined with STEM occupational classifications from O*NET to create a poster highlighting occupations in each of the seven identified STEM disciplines. A new Tableau dashboard highlighting STEM occupations was also created for users to dig more into the data by region and STEM job family. A dashboard/handout comparing STEM occupations in Nebraska to the nation was also developed in Excel.

The STEM products can be found online at <https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=621>.

Skills-Based Projections Reports

NDOL customers have expressed a desire to see expanded products using projections data. One of these products is skills-based projections. In PY19, WIG staff used the Report Manager application provided by the PMP to produce this new set of data. Skills-based projections were run for Nebraska statewide as well as the nine economic regions. These projections use data from O*NET to add information on knowledge and skills to the

projections data. These enhanced projections have been used in data requests and included in state and local area WIOA plans.

Since these are new data sets for the agency and are produced according to the specific needs of each customer, they are available upon request.

VIZioN Imi

Inspired by the idea that data is more accessible and engaging when readers are able to interact and ‘play’ with it, throughout PY19, WIG staff have been working to develop interactive data visualizations using Tableau. VIZioN *Imi* (<https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=1997>), published online as a section of NEworks, provides a centralized location for users to access this content. It is updated regularly as staff complete new Tableau visualizations and dashboards.

Many of the visualizations offered on VIZioN *Imi* were created to provide an interactive supplement to analysis published in *Nebraska Workforce Trends* (see above for more information about this publication), and provide hyperlinks back to these articles, so users can easily find both the interactive dashboard and the analysis written in its corresponding *Trends* article.

VIZioN *Imi* features interactive dashboards on a variety of relevant subjects, including worker flows in and out of Nebraska, commuting patterns, Nebraska’s veteran population, child care and working families, and Labor Availability Study results data. WIG staff are continuing to work on improving their Tableau skills and expanding these offerings.

COVID-19 & UI Claims in Nebraska Dashboard

Due to the unprecedented rise in UI claims experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the public’s desire for up-to-the-minute information about NDOL’s response efforts, WIG staff developed a UI claims data dashboard using Tableau, which is updated weekly as new data are released. This resource provides interactive visualizations depicting initial and continuing UI claims in Nebraska, which can be explored by county, occupation, industry, or demographic. Data from NDOL’s UI program are combined with data from the Census Bureau, O*NET, the 2018-2028 long-term projections, and other relevant programs in order to provide context. This dashboard has been viewed by roughly 4,000 customers since its launch in April 2020.

The dashboard can be accessed via NEworks, or by direct link at

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/rachel.stevens2440#!/vizhome/COVID-19InitialUnemploymentClaimsinNE/DashHome>.

Social Media

WIG-generated content is frequently featured on NDOL social media accounts in order to encourage public discussion.

The Twitter account can be followed at http://twitter.com/NE_DOL.

The Facebook page is located at <https://www.facebook.com/Nebraska.DOL>.

The YouTube channel can found at <http://www.youtube.com/user/NEDeptOfLabor>.

LMI Support of State Economic Development Initiatives (Data Requests)

WIG staff have developed strong working relationships with WIB members, economic development entities, and career center managers. WIG staff have comprehensive knowledge of LMI data and fulfill many of the information requests coming from these groups. During PY19, staff fulfilled 72 requests for data from Career Center managers and staff, constituting 175 hours of staff time. These data requests took an average of 2 hours and 25 minutes each to complete.

Staff spent a total of 994.5 hours fulfilling 486 direct requests for data from businesses, Chambers of Commerce, economic developers, job seekers, legislators, media, NDOL Career Centers, other NDOL departments, non-profit organizations, other governmental agencies, private individuals, schools and colleges, students, and state WIBs.

Data requests are tracked on a database that was designed by LMI. The database is updated manually, and therefore the figures below represent a lower boundary for a reasonable estimate of requests fulfilled.

Type Requested	#
Affirmative Action	1
Benefits Related	11
Business Licenses	1
Census	48
CES Employment	15
CES Wages	12
CPI/COLA	9
Commuting Patterns	6
Data Warehouse Query	47
DMV	0
Directory Assistance	92
Economic Insight Report	12
EQUI	3
H3	50
Ind. Projections	43
Job Posts/ Resumes Counts	29
Job Seeker Assistance	6
Labor Availability	35
LAUS/UI Rates	43
Laborforce/Workforce	39
LED	23
Layoffs/Layoff Map	2

Request Source	Count	Minutes	Hours
Businesses	50	3480	58.0
Chamber of Commerce	3	300	5.0
Economic Developer	27	4795	79.9
Job Seeker	15	316	5.3
Legislative	4	455	7.6
Media	10	985	16.4
NDOL Commissioner	13	1155	19.3
NDOL Job Center	72	10503	175.1
NDOL Other	50	6580	109.7
Non-Profit	34	4724	78.7
Other Government	57	11691	194.9
Other Private Individual	88	613	10.2
School/College	61	14043	234.1
Student	2	29	0.5
Total	486	59,669	994.48

Type Requested	#
Licensed and Cert.	13
Living Wage	8
Mass Layoffs	1
Minorities	3
NAICS Code	1
Occ. Projections	61
OES Wages & Empl	119
ONET	16
Presentations	28
Prevail./D-B Wages	2
Projections Publication	3
QCEW Employment	43
QCEW Wages	31
STEM	22
Supply/Demand	19
Training Related	12
Turnover	10
UI Stats / UI in Brief	52
Veterans	5
Wage Match	47
NE Workforce Trends	25
Other	85
Web Assistance: H3 Site	28
Web Assistance: LMI Site	18
Web Assistance: Networks	77
Web Assistance: Other Web	42
Total	1,298

Delivery Methods	#
E-mail	351
Hand Delivered	1
Mail	1
Phone	132
Presentation	28
Referred to Claims Center	47
Referred to Other Website	4
SFTP	19
Skype/IM	8
WebEx	2
Total*	593

**This total will not match Type Requested.*

Presentations & Trainings

Throughout PY19, WIG staff delivered numerous presentations and trainings to a diverse group of audiences, including NDOL front-line staff, state and local policy makers, economic developers, educators and administrators, students, job seekers, and the public at large.

July 2019

One staff member was a co-presenter with Lecia Langston from Utah for the PMP/C2ER sponsored Projections Basics webinar. Forty-five analysts from across the nation attended this webinar.

August 2019

One staff member presented during the Nebraska Economic Mobility Task Force Meeting in Grand Island to 20 members. The WIG staff member attended the monthly meeting of the task force the month prior to get more information to prepare for a presentation at the groups August meeting. This presentation focused on general information on LMI including BLS programs, projections, H3, and general resources to help assist job seekers in career exploration.

One staff member gave several presentations during the Nebraska Data Users Conference at the University of Nebraska Omaha. The first was as a panelist on the “Trends, Sources and Applications: The Future of Nebraska’s Data” session where WIG staff did a demo of LMI publications, tableau data visualizations, and the newly designed H3 website. This session was part of the main conference programing reaching 300 attendees.

During the breakout sessions of this event, WIG staff also co-presented with Erin Porterfield from HWS on the topic of “Nebraska’s Current and Future Workforce”. This presentation included data from all the LMI BLS programs, projections, H3, and Census LED demographic data. Two sessions were conducted at the conference reaching 104 conference attendees.

One staff member presented to the HWS Workforce Strategy & Innovation Committee in Omaha. This presentation included a brief introduction to LMI and then a live demo and question and answer session on NEworks. This committee is part of the Omaha Local Workforce Development Board and WIG staff met with two committee members prior to the presentation to discuss committee needs and topics for the presentation.

Two staff members, in conjunction with the University of Nebraska Bureau of Business Research, presented Labor Availability Study results to community leaders and economic developers in O’Neill.

September 2019

Two WIG staff presented a session at the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals –Nebraska Chapter workshop in Omaha. This presentation focused on projections and H3 occupations. Thirteen members of the association attended this presentation.

One staff member was a co-presenter with Stephen Birch from Florida at the PMP Summit in Arlington, VA. The presentation focused on best practices in cleaning employment time series data. Nebraska staff shared how they clean data for use in the projections program and using the data warehouse that was created by a previous Workforce Data Quality Initiative Grant to aid in this task. Fifty-six analysts from across the nation attended this event.

Two staff members presented an overview of NDOL resources, with an emphasis on H3 jobs and Labor Availability Study results, at a Nebraska Legislature hearing on skilled workforce development. Presenters from University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the state community college system, business leaders, and other community stakeholders also participated.

October 2019

Two WIG staff worked with one staff member from the NDOL E&T department to provide LMI training for NDOL E&T staff throughout the state. Trainings were given in four cities throughout the state: Lincoln, Omaha, Grand Island, and North Platte and staff from nearby offices were also invited to attend. This was an all-day training geared towards staff working with job seekers in the local offices. The content of the trainings included an introduction to LMI, a deeper dive into wages and the OES program, a closer look at projections and H3, and a session including live demos of the NEworks and H3 websites. Overall, 54 staff members from across the state attended one of the four sessions. Prior to the trainings, WIG staff worked closely with E&T staff and met several times to develop the curriculum. They also visited the Lincoln Job Center to observe staff working directly with clients to get a better idea of how they are currently using LMI to aid in developing the training materials.

One staff member presented to 27 ResCare Workforce Services staff from across the state via WebEx as part of their monthly call. The presentation focused on general information about LMI and what kinds of data are available.

One staff member presented to an Industrial Leaders' Breakfast in Columbus, with about 12 attendees, each representing a major business from around the Columbus area. The presentation focused on local labor market trends, Labor Availability Study results, employment projections, commuting patterns, and graduate outcomes data, with a particular emphasis on the manufacturing sector, which is highly concentrated around Columbus. Customized handouts were created for this event and distributed, along with copies of the Labor Availability Study reports from the Columbus-area household and business surveys.

November 2019

Two staff members presented at the Nebraska Development Network-Central Region Meeting in Central City to 9 people. They co-presented with an employment and training (E&T) staff member from the NDOL Grand Island job center. The E&T staff member gave an overview of NDOL and the E&T programs and WIG staff gave an overview of LMI as well as providing examples of local LMI data.

One staff member presented to 44 high school students at Crete High School as part of a career day event. This presentation focused on H3 careers, projections, and career exploration publications and resources from NDOL.

One staff member presented at the Community Builders event in Platte Center to 20 attendees. This presentation focused on future trends for the Northeast area and featured projections and H3 data.

One staff member presented overviews of NDOL resources to about 45 vocational rehabilitation counselors at Nebraska VR and the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court.

One staff member presented LMI resources for career-planning to adult mentors participating in the TeamMates mentoring program in Columbus. A game designed by WIG staff to teach students about H3 occupations was also demonstrated, and materials to recreate the activity were distributed. Several handouts and pamphlets created by WIG staff were also provided to the roughly 35 attendees.

January 2020

One staff member did a presentation at a meeting of EmployNorfolk. This presentation focused mostly on projections and H3 data, but also included some basic information from all the LMI programs. Eighteen people attended from several different partner agencies throughout the Norfolk area.

April 2020

One staff member delivered a webinar presentation via Zoom to mentors from the TeamMates mentoring organization. It provided an overview of LMI resources geared towards helping adult mentors provide

guidance and career-planning support to their middle and high school-aged mentees. A game designed by WIG staff to teach students about H3 occupations was also demonstrated, and materials to recreate the activity were distributed. About 10 people viewed the live presentation, and it was recorded and added to TeamMates' permanent video resource library, along with copies of all resource materials.

June 2020

One staff member presented to ten students during their College and Career Readiness for P-12 School Counselors graduate class through Doane online via Zoom. The presentation focused on H3 and career resources. This presentation helped to build awareness about resources not only from NDOL, but also from BLS and the US Census Bureau that teachers can use in their classrooms.

One staff member presented to 76 Nebraska VR staff members from throughout the state via WebEx. This presentation was a general overview of LMI programs and H3 occupations.

Internal Trainings (Ongoing)

The LMI Research Administrator and WIG staff spend time with each NDOL new employee orientation class providing a broad view of LMI's function, and how and where the data comes into the agency, moves through LMI and is provided back to the public as career exploration, unemployment rates, wages, projections and more. LMI website resources and direct contacts are shared as well.

Presentation Database

For each presentation delivered, the type of audience, number of sessions, and number of attendees are tracked in the LMI presentation database.

(These counts do not include informal presentations given at meetings, orientation to new NDOL employees that includes information about LMI, and other ad-hoc presentations.)

Presentations Given July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020	Sessions	Attendees
Businesses	2	47
Economic Developer	2	24
Legislative	1	35
NDOL - Job Center	8	127
Non-Profit	4	63
Other Government	7	260
School/College/Student	4	458
Businesses	2	47
Total	28	1,014

Misc. Efforts to Collaborate, Consult Customers, & Respond to Specific Needs

ReVISION Process

In PY19, staff provided data to assist with the reVISION process at several Nebraska public schools. The reVISION process provides Nebraska schools with the opportunity to analyze and transform their career education systems and improve their ability to educate a qualified workforce that meets industry needs within an ever-changing economy. This project is partnership between the Nebraska Departments of Education and Economic Development, and local school districts. Data pulled included top employers from the InfoGroup data on NEworks, Census OnTheMap data, and advertised jobs in NEworks.

During the reVISION process, data is provided to schools to help them analyze their current education systems. Access to LMI data during this process helps the schools identify and address shortcomings and develop plans to ensure they meet the economic needs of their communities.

The reVISION process is a partnership between NDE, NDED, and local school districts. Providing data for these projects has helped to strengthen LMI's partnerships with each of these agencies and has provided another method of connecting LMI data to users.

Local Area WIOA Plans

LMI provided information to local and regional Workforce Development Boards (Lincoln, Omaha, and Greater Nebraska) to assist them in creating two-year modification of their WIOA plans. The information provided included a variety of data from LMI and the Census, such as demographics, projections, industry employment, and graduate data, as well as data on farm and ranch economic hardship and bankruptcies from the Nebraska Department of Revenue.

WIOA Eligible Training Provider List

Throughout the grant year, WIG staff met with and assisted NDOL's Employment and Training staff by using the data warehouse to obtain performance information for the WIOA eligible training provider list. WIG staff worked with educational institutions throughout the state to get data into the warehouse and to prepare reports on their graduates.

Adult Education and Carl Perkins Career & Technical Education

WIG staff provided federal performance wage data from the data warehouse for NDE's Adult Basic Education program and Carl Perkins Career and Technical Education Act compliance.

Nebraska Partner Council

WIG staff have been participating in the Nebraska Partner Council, which was organized for the purpose of strengthening cross-agency partnerships. In PY19, Partner Council members were added to State Workforce Board subcommittees to better align work being done between the groups. The LMI Research Administrator and Research Supervisor were designated as non-voting co-chairs of the Evaluation and Review subcommittee. A focus of this council is to identify workforce solutions to ensure subpopulations are being afforded quality work opportunities and employers have a diverse and ready workforce. The Council includes all WIOA-mandated partners as well as other interested agencies.

Nebraska ACT Council

One staff member serves as the workforce agency representative for the state's ACT Council. This group consists of education and workforce professionals who share ideas, best practices, and concerns about education in the region. In addition, this council has been an excellent place to distribute information about the career resources created by the WIG staff. Beginning in PY18, the staff member took on a larger role in the group by serving as secretary.

Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Partnership

Nebraska participates in the LED Partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau, and continues to share QCEW and unemployment insurance earnings data to be combined with administrative data from the Census. The Census Bureau uses this data to create statistics on employment, earnings, and job flows at different levels of geography and industry and for different demographic groups. Staff regularly utilizes data from this program for data requests and products. One of the most requested is commuting patterns from the OnTheMap application.

Support Activities in Response to COVID-19

Nebraska WIG staff provided support in several important ways during FY19. These efforts are detailed below.

UI Inquiry Response Support

From March through May 2020, one staff member was re-assigned to NDOL's Unemployment Insurance Claims Center to assist with answering emails from claimants. These generally consisted of sending instructions on how to apply for benefits and answering questions regarding the status of their claims. The volume of emails the Claims Center began receiving at the onset of the pandemic had quickly become unmanageable for the existing staff, so reassigning some staff to help was determined to be necessary to avoid unnecessary customer frustration and reassure worried Nebraskans that NDOL was doing its best to provide needed support.

Claims Adjudication Support

One WIG staff member participated in UI adjudicator training and spent three months (March, April, and May 2020) processing over 1,000 unemployment claims. This was done in order to expedite the claims process, which was overwhelmed due to the rapid surge in new initial claims caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

UI Claims & COVID-19 Dashboard

WIG staff developed this interactive dashboard to make it easier for customers to access the newest available data regarding UI claims, and to see the information in a user-friendly visual format supplemented by historical data and other contextual information. The dashboard quickly became a valued resource for helping Nebraskans understand the situation and see evidence of NDOL's dedication to transparency and responsiveness to public needs.

See above for additional details and a link to the dashboard.

Nebraska Workforce Trends Special Issues

For the April/May issue of *Nebraska Workforce Trends*, WIG staff worked with analysts from other LMI programs (e.g., QCEW, OES, CES, LAUS, etc.) to prepare a special COVID-19 edition covering frequently asked questions such as how each program was responding to the situation, how data products may be affected, when future data releases may begin to capture the impact of the pandemic, information about submitting a UI claim, and how circumstances may compare to other historical events that may have disrupted Nebraska's labor markets. The June/July issue then followed up with a special COVID-19 update written by the LMI research supervisor.

Recommendations to ETA for Changes & Improvements to WIG Requirements

WIOA calls for more labor market information to be used in planning processes and in working with clients. Nebraska recommends the national and regional offices become more knowledgeable about labor market information at the state level. There will be significant emphasis placed on the plan, performance reporting, and other aspects of the WIOA. ETA's national and regional staff should pay attention to and work with state LMI offices to identify best practices and coordinate efforts to assist states in meeting the demands for LMI.

Continued support for the Projections Managing Partnership (PMP), Analyst Resource Center (ARC) and LEWIS is vital for states to meet the requirements of WIOA. ETA has taken steps to place emphasis on LEWIS' role in the LMI system. Nebraska recommends that ETA continue to emphasize the importance of these programs by ensuring there are ongoing appropriations to fund the changes necessary to keep LEWIS current. This would allow for long-range planning and development to improve the important information these systems support for WIOA.

There are several fields in the WID dedicated to titles such as degree programs, occupation titles, NAICS titles, and industry titles. The field lengths in the WID are too short to accommodate the content, so it becomes necessary to truncate or abbreviate them. This is time-consuming and may result in some misunderstanding of the content. Nebraska's recommendation is to lengthen the title fields in the WID.

Nebraska WIG staff have been involved in the WIOA State Plan and have provided data to support the plan. More clarity on the role of WIG during the implementation and measurement of outcomes mentioned in the state plan would be encouraged.

Finally, Nebraska recommends adding language emphasizing that state-level LMI offices should play a major role in WDQI grants, and underscoring the importance of expanding uses of longitudinal data systems to provide information for WIOA. These systems provide a major opportunity to develop information for WIOA Boards, WIOA customers, and assist in the improvement of performance reporting. LMI offices are in a unique position to understand the workings of UI wage records, UI benefits data, Employment and Training data, and LMI data, and are well-situated to provide accurate information to the WIOA system and partners. ETA should add funds to the WIG to help expand the development of longitudinal (e.g., WDQI) types of information.