

Nebraska Workforce Information Grant Report

PY 2022

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.

I. PY22 Workforce Information Grant Staff

In PY22, there were six permanent staff on the WIG team: five research analysts and a research supervisor. Throughout the year, research analysts from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) programs also provided support to WIG staff.

PY22 Workforce Information Grant Deliverables

The following pages report a brief review, by deliverable, of work completed during PY22.

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://networks.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 on June 30, 2023. The next update will be due in summer 2025.

II. Industry & Occupational Projections

In PY22, short-term (2022-2024) industry and occupational projections were produced for Nebraska Statewide. Long-term industry and occupational projections (2020-2030) were produced for the Nebraska Statewide and nine sub-state areas. These were primarily developed in PY21 and released at the beginning of PY22 in July 2022.

A. Industry Projections

Short-term (2022-2024) industry projections for Nebraska Statewide were completed in March 2023. Industry projections data is available in Excel worksheets that may be downloaded by customers via the "Data Download Center" page in NEworks at

<https://neworks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=gPg0mWJQASphok+Pe8+dnQ==>.

Long-term (2020-2030) industry projections for Nebraska Statewide and nine sub-state areas were completed in July 2022. 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

<https://neworks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=gPg0mWJQASphok+Pe8+dnQ==>.

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.

B. Occupational Projections

Short-term (2022-2024) occupational projections for Nebraska Statewide were completed in March 2023. 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

<https://neworks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=EV+mnVfK6qRWnoXwN+RfXg==>.

Long-term (2020-2030) occupational projections for Nebraska Statewide and the nine sub-state areas were completed in July 2022. 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

<https://neworks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=EV+mnVfK6qRWnoXwN+RfXg==>.

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

<https://neworks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=vjtDn8mqo067kKmQqqJF2g==>.

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.

C. PMP Activities

One WIG staff member has been active on Projections Managing Partnership (PMP) committees and projects during PY22 and continues to do so through the present. In addition, Nebraska's LMI Director serves on the PMP board.

i. 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.

ii. 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.

In addition, WIG staff has helped to answer questions from analysts from across the country on various aspects of the projections process.

iii. PMP Training Videos

One WIG staff member has been assisting the PMP in reviewing and producing content for updated national projections training videos.

iv. PMP Tableau Community of Practice

In PY22 one WIG staff member participated in meetings of the PMP Tableau Community of Practice. This community was established to help states use Tableau to visualize projections and general LMI data. The PMP has also provided Tableau desktop licenses to states for projections analysts and Nebraska is utilizing this resource.

v. PMP State Employment Methodology Review

One WIG staff member was selected by the PMP to be part of the PMP State Employment Methodology Review as a representative for state projections analysts. This project was a joint effort of the Lumina Foundation, CREC, and the PMP and was tasked with reviewing the short-term projections methodology, sub-state projections, mid-term projections, skills-based projections, and working on the development of an automation exposure index. This workgroup met bi-weekly for the first half of PY22 and submitted a report of their findings to the PMP board.

D. Alternative Projections

In PY22, one WIG staff member created an alternative set of Nebraska Statewide long-term industry and occupational projections to account for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The results were utilized in an article published in the July/August issue of Nebraska Workforce Trends (<https://networks.nebraska.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/Trends%20July-August%202023%20.pdf>) and were published online on the "Data Download Center" page in NEworks at: <https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=vjtDn8mqo067kKmQgqJF2g==>.

LMI Training for Service Delivery

I. Trainings & Presentations Provided

Throughout PY22, 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 2022

One staff member presented to 20 attendees at the inaugural EMPLOY Beatrice meeting. This meeting was coordinated by NDOL Reemployment Services staff in Beatrice and brought together area employers, education institutions, and non-profits to discuss local workforce needs. WIG staff presented to 20 attendees on wage data for the area.

August 2022

Two staff members presented to 25 virtual attendees of the Better Business Workshop Series: Utilizing wage, benefit, and labor availability data to help your business stay competitive sponsored by HWS. Topics included a general overview of LMI data with a focus on results from the Labor Availability Studies.

September 2022

One WIG staff member co-presented with NDOL Reemployment Services staff to 10 attendees of the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals Fall 2022 Symposium. WIG staff presented an overview of LMI data.

One WIG staff member presented at the PMP Summit in Arlington, VA. Staff was on the PMP Summit Analyst Forum panel and did a presentation on Meeting Customer Information Needs with the Employment Projections. Over 125 analysts from throughout the country attended in person or virtually.

October 2022

One staff member presented to a meeting of the Lincoln Strategic Initiatives Committee via Zoom.

One WIG staff member co-presented with NDOL Reemployment Services staff to 30 NDOL staff members as part of the NDOL Reemployment Services Virtual Learning Week. WIG staff presented an overview of LMI data.

November 2022

One WIG staff member presented virtually on STEM data from NDOL and the Census to eight members of the Omaha STEM Ecosystem - Research and Advocacy Committee.

January 2023

One staff member presented to the Nebraska Land Improvement Contractor Association Conference. The presentation covered LMI data for industry-specific concerns, as well as a general economic overview for the state.

March 2023

One staff member presented on free career resources from NDOL to 90 attendees on a webinar sponsored by the EducationQuest Foundation.

One WIG staff member worked with Reemployment Services staff from our Beatrice job center to run a booth at the Auburn High School Reality Check Event. Over 145 students from area schools attended the event and learned about careers and resources from NDOL.

April 2023

One WIG staff member co-presented with NDOL Reemployment Services staff to 20 attendees of the

Midwest Independent Physicians Practice Association Spring Meeting. Topics included labor availability, turnover, job-to-job flows, and wages.

Two staff members operated a booth at the Norris High School career fair, reaching approximately 725 students. Staff discussed LMI resources for career-planning with students who stopped by the booth.

One staff member presented to a meeting of the Lincoln Strategic Initiatives Committee via Zoom.

May 2023

One WIG staff member co-presented with NDOL Reemployment Services staff to 8 attendees of a webinar sponsored by the Midwest Independent Physicians Practice Association. Topics included labor availability, turnover, job-to-job flows, and wages. This was a webinar version of the in-person presentation done the month prior at the spring meeting.

June 2023

One staff member presented to 28 attendees of the Nebraska Career Education Conference in Kearney. The presentation was on career resources from NDOL.

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.

External Trainings (Ongoing)

One staff member regularly presents an overview of current LMI at the monthly meetings of the HWS Workforce Strategy and Innovation Committee. HWS is the administrative entity for the Greater Omaha American Job Center and this committee reports to the Greater Omaha Workforce Development Board. The mission of this committee is to promote and develop a workforce system that is responsive to the needs of business and career seekers resulting in economic prosperity. In PY22, WIG staff gave 11 presentations in these meetings with an average of 19 committee members in attendance for each meeting.

One staff member regularly presents an overview of current LMI at the quarterly meetings of the Greater Lincoln Workforce Development Board Strategic Initiatives Committee. In PY22, WIG staff gave three presentations in these meetings with an average of 9 committee members in attendance for each meeting.

One staff member regularly presents to students during their College and Career Readiness for P-12 School Counselors graduate class through Doane College. The presentation focuses on H3 and career resources. This presentation helps 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. In PY22, WIG staff led two presentations for a total of 22 students.

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	Sessions	Attendees
Business	3	38
Economic Developer	1	10
NDOL-Job Center	2	45
Non-Profit Organization	16	556
Other Government	3	45
Other Private Individual	2	30
Reemployment Services	1	30
School/College	5	1,392
Student	1	4
Total	34	2,150

II. Trainings & Presentations Attended

WIG staff also attended numerous trainings and conferences during PY22. These are detailed below.

A. Conferences

September 2022

In September 2022, one WIG staff member attended the Projections Managing Partnership (PMP) Summit, held in Washington DC. Staff was on the “PMP Analyst Forum” panel and did a presentation on “Meeting Customer Information Needs with the Employment Projections.” This presentation highlighted products from many states, including Nebraska.

March 2023

Two WIG staff members attended the virtual Local Employment Dynamics Workshop in March 2023. 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 PY22.

One WIG staff member attended the Nebraska Women in STEM Conference in Lincoln. The mission of Nebraska Women in STEM is to provide opportunities for Nebraska’s professional women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to develop professionally, make connections, and promote policies that increase the number of women in STEM.

May 2023

The spring Tableau Conference 2023 was held in hybrid on-site/virtually in May. This event is organized now twice a year, to help develop Tableau skills of users as well as spur innovation and usage. One WIG staff member attended virtually. Watching and participating in a variety of sessions regarding dashboarding and analysis using the Tableau platform.

B. LinkedIn Learning Trainings

The State of Nebraska offers staff the opportunity to participate in online trainings through LinkedIn Learning. During PY22, WIG staff completed online trainings in a variety of topics, including:

- Excel Advanced Formulas and Functions 2021
- Time Management Training
- Building a Better To-Do List
- Giving Feedback
- Implementing Creative Feedback the Win-Win Way
- Video Strategies for High Engagement
- From Excel to Tableau

C. Webinars

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

August 2022

- GeoSol Webinar: Pathways to Employment: Thriving in the Gig Economy
- Blueprint Nebraska Progress Report
- Snagit Webinar: 5 Ways You Never Thought to use Snagit

September 2022

- American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates
- American Community Survey 2015-2019 5-year Estimates Release

October 2022

- Adobe Webinar: Moving Beyond the Basics of Digital Government with Personalization

November 2022

- GeoSol Webinar: Pathways to Employment: Resources Creating Positive Outcomes for Justice-Impacted Talent
- PMP Webinar: Skills Projections Training

December 2022

- Nebraska BBR Webinar: Nebraska Economic Forecast
- PMP Webinar: PMP Overview and Guidance for State Analysts Navigating the Transition to NAICS 2022

February 2023

- LED Webinar: The Disproportionate Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women in the Workforce

March 2023

- LEHD Webinar Series: Benefits of Using Census Data to Recruit Students into Liberal Arts Programs
- NCES Webinar on data surveys/tools

April 2023

- Census LED webinar: Minnesota's Aging Workforce and How It Compares to Other States Using Census Data
- BLS Webinar on JOLTS

June 2023

- LED Webinar Series: Using Census Data and Quarterly Wage Files to Analyze the COVID Recession and Recovery
- C2ER, LMI Institute, and APDU Webinar: Enhanced Wage Records + OEWS: What We've Learned from Employer Responses

Annual Economic Analysis Report & Other Publications

I. Statewide Annual Economic Analysis Report

LMI's annual Nebraska Economic Insight and Outlook Report (EIOR) was compiled throughout PY22 and completed in September 2023. 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%202023.pdf>

II. Labor Availability Study (LAS)

The Nebraska Department of Labor has continued to collect, analyze, and disseminate labor availability information for PY22. LB1110, passed in the spring of 2016, requires the completion of labor availability and skills gap studies for all laborshed areas of the state on a rotating basis. While two WIG staff members work on this project, NDOL funds these surveys through the use of the Nebraska Training and Support Cash Fund.

Typically, NDOL surveys three areas of the state annually on a rotating basis. In PY22, NDOL collaborated with Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) and the University of Nebraska Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR) on multiple surveys to assess impacts on hiring, labor availability, teleworking, and benefits offered to employees. For PY22, the laborsheds surveyed were: Crete, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Lexington, Greater Lincoln, Seward, and York. In PY22, the Labor Availability Study received 2,810 business responses and 3,185 responses from households. The Labor Availability Study Annual Report for PY22 submitted to the Nebraska Legislature can be viewed or downloaded at

https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Agencies/Labor_Department_of/641_20230731-123031.pdf

A. Labor Availability and Hiring Needs Reports

During PY22, NDOL produced a total of eight (8) city-laborshed reports. LAS publications can be viewed or downloaded at <https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?docid=802>.

B. Skills Gap Reports

For PY22, NDOL has in-housed production of its skills gap reports. For PY22, the Greater Lincoln Skills Gap report was finishing document production as of the end of the grant year. Due to many issues effecting the labor market in the area, a host of labor market information analysis topics beyond skills were included for analysis. Data from its product will be present in the next Combined State Plan (also in production as of end of the grant year).

The Skills Gap report can be viewed or downloaded at

<https://networks.nebraska.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/LincolnSkillsGap2022.pdf>

III. 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 providing deeper dives into LMI topics; current economic indicator data; special short-form content such as "Map Facts" (articles in which interesting data about Nebraska are visualized on a map), "Fast Facts" (articles highlighting statistics and key facts about a topic), LMI program spotlights, profiles of specific industries, occupations, or economic regions in Nebraska; as well as other useful information.

This publication is sent to approximately 400 subscribers each month, with additional readers logging onto the website to read each issue. The subscriber list for Nebraska Workforce Trends includes policymakers, WIB members, community leaders, economic developers, educators, journalists, union representatives, and professionals from the business community.

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

IV. 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 OEWS. 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/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/Career%20Ladder%20-%20All.pdf>.

V. Licensed Occupations Publication

Per the WIG grant requirements, staff must update occupational licensing information and upload these data on a biennial basis. Nebraska completes this process in odd-numbered years. Nebraska published its newest occupational licensing information on June 30, 2023, fulfilling this requirement for PY22 and PY23.

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: 2023*. This publication is 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/Licensed%20occupations%20Publication%202021_Final.pdf

VI. 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 August 2022 utilizing the 2020-2030 projections produced in PY21. Top 10 H3 handouts were created highlighting the top H3 occupations for each region. The data and handouts are available on the NEworks "Data Download Center" page, located at:

<https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=oduMpwMRTIQnt7W7W02/Ew==>

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/>).

VII. 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 many educational institutions located throughout Nebraska and western Iowa, as well as agreements with five other various state agencies and non-profits.

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, and Veterans Affairs; the University of Nebraska Criminal Justice Research Center.

LMI also partners with the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) team to track career and technical education graduates into the workforce.

VIII. 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 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/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=zguBU76uluJRZMdSPSc4UO==>

IX. Occupational Profiles

Occupational profiles provide career overviews of selected occupations in Nebraska. Each profile features general information about the occupation, including job responsibilities and important qualities from O*NET and the BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook, wage data from the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) Local Employment & Wage Information System (LEWIS), and its projected job outlook from long-term occupational projections. The profiles are also color-coded to coordinate with the NDE career cluster model of occupational classification. There are a total of 10 occupational profiles, which can be found online at <https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=VSv720Lz/Ap0vkKK/nC5eQ==>.

X. VIZioN Imi

Inspired by the idea that data is more accessible and engaging when readers are able to interact and 'play' with it, WIG staff have been working to develop interactive data visualizations using Tableau whenever possible. VIZioN Imi (<https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=6x6HH72hIXyvofxMTIZucg==>), 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 wage information, UI claims data, STEM occupations, commuting patterns, Nebraska's veteran population, and postsecondary graduate outcomes. WIG staff are continuing to work on improving their Tableau skills and expanding these offerings. In PY22, dashboard development was primarily maintenance and updating existing products.

XI. 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 PY22, staff fulfilled 67 requests for data from Job Center managers and staff, constituting 97 hours of staff time.

Staff spent a total of 951 hours fulfilling 343 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	Count	Type Requested	Count	Type Requested	Count
Benefits Related	3	Laborforce/Workforce	38	STEM	14
Census	30	LED	29	Supply/Demand	10
CES Employment/Wages	24	Layoffs/Layoff Map	2	Training Related	5
CPI/COLA	2	Licensed and Cert.	5	Turnover	14
Commuting Patterns	6	Living Wage	6	UI non-LMI	2
Data Warehouse Query	16	Maps	15	UI Stats / UI in Brief	12
Economic Insight Report	2	Minimum Wage	3	Unions	1
EQUI	2	Occ. Projections	37	Veterans	2
Employers by Size	3	OES Wages & Empl	41	Wage Match	6
H3	28	ONET	7	Workforce Trends	21
Ind. Projections	25	Posters	10	Other	47
Job Posts/ Resumes Counts	36	Presentations	32	H3 Site/Downloads	2
Job Seeker Assistance	1	Prevailing/D-B Wages	2	LMI Site	34
Labor Availability	28	QCEW			
LAUS/UI Rates	41	Employment/Wages	32	NEworks	11
		Resumes	4	Other Web	23
Total: 714					

Delivery Methods	Count
E-mail	287
Phone	31
Presentation	26
SFTP	22
Video Conference	20
Referred to other website	7
IM/Chat	7
Referred to LMI website	5
Referred to Job Center	4
Mail	2
Attended Meeting	1
This Total will not match Type Requested	412

Requestor Type	# of Requests	Minutes Spent	Total Hours
Business	34	4,706	78.43
Chamber of Commerce	5	345	5.75
Claimant	1	60	1
Economic Developer	28	2,772	46.2
Legislative	4	355	5.92
Media	4	190	3.17
NDOL-Commissioner	6	1,195	19.92
NDOL-Job Center	67	5,857	97.62
NDOL-Other	55	6,355	105.92
Non-Profit Organization	43	15,114	251.9
Other Government	36	7,720	128.67
Other Private Individual	15	2,215	36.92
Reemployment Services	8	1,847	30.78
School/College	31	7,400	123.33
Student	6	975	16.25
Total	343	57106	951.78

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

I. WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Activities Program Allotments

LMI provided information to NDOL staff in order calculate WIOA funds at the state and sub-state level for PY22. The information provided included LMI and census data on areas of substantial unemployment, individuals experiencing long-term unemployment, number of economically disadvantaged adults and youth, farm and ranch economic hardship, and individuals enrolled in dislocated worker programs.

II. Local Area WIOA Plans

LMI provided information to Reemployment Services Administration to assist them in updating regional and local WIOA plan modifications. The information provided included a variety of data from LMI and the Census, such as demographics, projections, industry employment, and graduate data.

III. 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.

IV. 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.

V. Nebraska Partner Council

WIG staff have been participating in the Nebraska Partner Council, which was organized for the purpose of strengthening cross-agency partnerships. 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.

VI. 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.

VII. 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. In addition to submitting data to the U.S. Census Bureau, Nebraska is also participating in the BLS Wage Record Pilot Project. Due to changes in UI Tax software, WIG staff now generate the files shared with the Census and BLS that IT previously created.

VIII. Heartland Workforce Solutions (HWS) Workforce Strategy & Innovation Committee

One staff member regularly presents an overview of current LMI at the monthly meetings of the HWS Workforce Strategy and Innovation Committee. HWS is the administrative entity for the Greater Omaha American Job Center and this committee reports to the Greater Omaha Workforce Development Board. The mission of this committee is to promote and develop a workforce system that is responsive to the needs of business and career seekers resulting in economic prosperity.

IX. Omaha STEM Ecosystem Research and Advisory Committee

One WIG staff member serves as the co-chair for the Omaha STEM Ecosystem Research and Advisory Committee. This committee focuses on building on the research and advocacy side of building up the STEM ecosystem in the Omaha metro area. The mission of the ecosystem is to build a stronger STEM community by connecting education and business development for tomorrow's workforce. Representatives from each of these groups are part of the committees.

X. NSWERS

The Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System (or NSWERS) is a collaboration among the six Nebraska Community Colleges, the Nebraska Department of Education, the Nebraska State College System, the University of Nebraska System, and the Nebraska Department of Labor to enable seamless integration of data across educational and workforce systems, provide data literacy education, and promote the use of this data to further evidence-based policy and practices across the educational systems of Nebraska. Information about NSWERS can be found at <https://nswers.org>.

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.