State of Ohio Annual Report

Workforce and Labor Market Information Grant Accomplishments

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

This report is a summary of the state of Ohio's accomplishments in meeting the requirements of the program year (PY) 2024 Workforce and Labor Market Information Grant.

Workforce Information Database (WID)

1. The Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information (LMI) has upgraded to version 3.0 of the database. The core tables have been populated according to guidelines. Tables are updated monthly, quarterly, annually, or biennially as appropriate.

2. Ohio uses the LMI Informer website platform, which draws data from the WID. The website is our main source for distributing data and reports to customers. It is complemented by our OhioLMI mobile application, which has visualizations of many of our commonly requested data products, including state, metro, and county labor force statistics and industry data. The mobile app is available on Android and Apple phones and tablets.

Industry and Occupational Employment Projections

The employment projections are produced using the Projections Suite software provided by the Projections Managing Partnership.

1. The long-term (2022-2032) substate industry and occupational employment projections were completed using the Projections Suite software. The industry employment projections can be found at ohiolmi.com/Home/DS_Results_INDPROJ. The occupational projections can be found at ohiolmi.com/Home/DS_Results_OCCPROJ.

   - LMI occupational projections are the basis for Ohio's "Top Jobs" list, which is developed by the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation. The purpose of the Top Jobs list is to provide workers and training institutions with a reliable, consistent method for identifying in-demand jobs and related career opportunities in Ohio. Ohio's Top Jobs list may be found here: topjobs.ohio.gov/top-jobs-list/ohios-top-jobs-list.

2. LMI produced the statewide short-term employment outlook, 1st quarter 2024 to 1st quarter 2026, according to procedures established by the Projections Managing Partnership. The short-term occupation projections were completed by March 10, 2025, using the Projections Suite and submitted to Projections Central. The short-term occupational projections are on LMI's data search tool at ohiolmi.com/Home/DS_Results_OCCPROJ.

LMI Training for Service Delivery

In PY 2024, LMI has actively provided technical assistance and training to Ohio's workforce development communities and partners.

1. LMI Training for Service Delivery

   - On July 9, 2024, Greg Richey and Paul Konicek presented virtually at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Workforce Stakeholder Meeting. The audience included 25 people from the ODJFS Office of Workforce Development (OWD) and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) partners. They discussed industry and occupational employment projections, providing a brief overview of the employment projections process.

   - On August 21, 2024, Paul Konicek and Greg Richey presented virtually at the Monthly Workforce Development Board Meeting. The focus was on the 2022-2032 long-term statewide projections. There were 20 workforce development board directors in attendance.

   - On September 12, 2024, Dolores Little and Christopher Dixon provided labor market information training for Growing Rural Independence Together (GRIT) members in a virtual session. The audience consisted of local workforce development boards, with the number of attendees unknown.

   - On September 10, 2024, Jess Walton attended the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) National Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. Jess participated on a panel with approximately 130 national, regional, and state office representatives, discussing various OEWS topics.

   - On September 19-20, 2024, Christopher Dixon, Dolores Little, and Nicholas Wallace presented at an International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP) Conference, held in person at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center in Lewis Center, Ohio. They provided an overview of labor market information and the Data User Insights Academy Project to about 30 Ohio workforce professionals each day.

   - On September 18, 2024, Derek Ault, Dolores Little, and Nicholas Wallace presented virtually to attendees at the ODJFS Data Management and Analytics Community of Practice monthly meeting. Their topic, presented to 40 attendees, was creating efficiencies using programming in R (open-source statistical analysis language). These efficiencies make it easy to analyze the weekly and monthly claims data.

   - On September 24, 2024, Nicholas Wallace presented at the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) Workforce and Labor Market Information (WLMI) Committee and NASWA Summit in New Orleans. His topic was "Jazz Up Your LMI Shop Using Modern Data Tools: Experiences and Best Practices from NASWA's R User Group." Approximately 30 workforce development and labor market information professionals attended.

   - On October 17, 2024, Nicholas Wallace presented an overview of labor market information data sources and products to 32 economic development, human resources, workforce, and data analytics professionals at the Ohio Economic Development Institute Workforce and Talent Course. The event was held at Ohio University's Dublin, Ohio, campus.

   - On March 26, 2025, Christopher Dixon shared the final outcomes of the Data User Insights Academy Project with 44 participants from the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) and other states. This virtual presentation was part of the Data User Insights Academy Wrap Up Meeting.

- On April 14, 2025, Christopher Dixon, Dolores Little, and Stephanie Pride presented an overview of resources available on OhioLMI.com to 19 workforce development professionals at the Area 6 Business Resource Network meeting. This was a virtual presentation for educational partners, WIOA staff, workforce development board members, and economic developers.

- On May 13, 2025, Nicholas Wallace presented virtually on current labor force trends, Ohio's long-term employment outlook, occupational wage estimates, and new labor market resources to 50 members attending an Ohio Restaurant and Hospitality Association (ORHA) Discussion Panel.

- On June 10, 2025, Nicholas Wallace, Dolores Little, Stephanie Pride, and Christopher Dixon presented "Labor Market Data 101: Empowering Ohio's Workforce Development" to 158 ODJFS Office of Workforce Development staff and local workforce area partners. This LMI Learning Lab was the first monthly webinar session designed to educate workforce partners on how to find and use labor market data in their decision-making processes.

2. LMI published a series of four web-based training modules focused on the customer experience. The self-guided tutorials are tailored for job seekers, employers, and workforce professionals and can be found at ohiolmi.com/Home/eLearning.

Annual Economic Analysis and Other Reports

LMI has produced analyses and reports to support workforce efforts around the state.

1. LMI produced the 2024 Annual Economic Report. This report covers labor force statistics, unemployment claims, industry employment, and online job postings. Data are presented at the state, regional, metropolitan, and county levels.

2. Ohio publishes a monthly Ohio Leading Indicators report. The Ohio Leading Indicators report uses an annualized growth rate to forecast employment growth for Ohio and its eight largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) for the next six months.

3. With the assistance of other sections of the ODJFS Office of Workforce Development, LMI produces annual county economic profiles. The profiles provide data on industries, employment and wage trends, industry turnover, online job postings and resumes, commuting data, and more. This year LMI posted the reports using Tableau. The profiles can be found at ohiolmi.com/Home/EconomicProfiles.

4. County workforce and development boards prefer local information when available. LMI developed county occupational employment estimates by applying regional industry staffing patterns to county employment data. To preserve industry confidentiality, highly concentrated occupations (more than 75% in one industry) are reported in wide ranges. The reports can be found at ohiolmi.com/Home/CountyOccupationReport.

5. LMI provides technical expertise and data support to various sections and workgroups within the ODJFS Office of Workforce Development, other ODJFS offices, and external state agencies. Recent examples of this support include:

- **Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission:** LMI assisted in locating data relevant to an upcoming

reentry bill. This included identifying reliable sources and reports on post-incarceration employment outcomes, such as job types, wage data, and employment timelines for individuals reentering the workforce.

- **Policy Support Using ACS Data:** LMI retrieved and shared county-level data from the American Community Survey (ACS) with a policy colleague. The data focused on Ohio residents age 60 and older and supported policy analysis and planning efforts related to this population.

- **ODJFS Office of Family Assistance:** LMI responded to a request to develop a quick-reference chart for staff unfamiliar with Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes. The team identified common job titles used by clients, aligned them with appropriate SOC codes, and provided examples of employer types and alternate job titles that may differ from official classifications.

- **Ohio Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation:** LMI provided job advertisement data, state industry employment statistics, and long-term employment projections to support workforce strategy and planning initiatives.

6. LMI provides technical support to the ODJFS Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations by performing a statistical analysis of initial claims to help identify fraud and to provide a count of claims by industry and occupation to local areas. This is an internal document.

7. LMI responds to internal and external requests for data and assistance. Over PY 2024, LMI responded to more than 142 internal and external requests for data and assistance.

8. OhioLMI.com received more than 248,083 page views in PY 2024, across 104,729 users. The OhioLMI.com home page had the most page views, followed by the Apprenticeship Dashboard, the OhioMeansJobs Services Dashboard, the Unemployment Insurance Claims page, Employment Projections, and the Data Search Tool.

9. LMI has established multiple tools for collecting feedback and monitoring outcomes. We regularly distribute presentation and training assessment surveys and consider usage statistics important indicators of the value of our services. We collect customer feedback directly through OhioLMI.com/Home/Feedback, and we use a desktop application to record customer inquiries. Additionally, we send follow-up emails with a customer feedback survey to individuals who have contacted LMI by email.

10. LMI provides data and technical assistance to the ODJFS Office of Workforce Development to help determine WIOA allocations to the local areas.

11. LMI includes value-added products on its website to assist its customers. The following products are available through the Data Search Tool:

- **The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages query** provides data including the number of business establishments, number of workers, total wages paid, and average annual wages for privately owned businesses. Annual and quarterly data are available for the state, major metropolitan areas, and counties. These data are available here: ohiolmi.com/Home/DS_Results_QCEW.

- **The Current Employment Statistics query** provides industry employment data for Ohio and 13

MSAs. These data are available here: ohiolmi.com/Home/CES/DS_Results_CES.

- **The Local Area Unemployment Statistics query** provides annual and monthly estimates including the labor force, number of employed and unemployed persons, and unemployment rate for the state, counties, the MSAs, JobsOhio regions, workforce investment areas, and cities with populations of 25,000 and larger. These data are available here: ohiolmi.com/Home/DS_Results_LAUS.

- **The Occupation Employment and Wage Statistics query** has annual occupational employment and wage estimates for Ohio, the MSAs, JobsOhio regions, and the balance of state areas. These data are available here: ohiolmi.com/Home/DS_Results_OES.

- **The Industry and Occupational Employment Projections query** has Ohio long- and short-term projections and long-term projections for the eight largest MSAs and JobsOhio regions (WIRED regions). The 2022-2032 occupational projections can be found here: ohiolmi.com/Home/DS_Results_OCCPROJ.

12. LMI collaborated closely with the Ohio Workforce Association and local partners to develop new tools tailored to the needs of local workforce professionals. These resources are available at ohiolmi.com/LocalData/Resources.

- LMI developed a user-friendly dashboard called the **County Data Hub**. This dashboard allows users to easily access and share local labor market data. In just three steps—select a county, explore a report, and download the results—users can access a wide range of information. The dashboard includes Core Statistics (e.g., population, unemployment rate), Commuting Patterns, Unemployment Claims, Job Ads, Employment and Wages, and Employment Projections.

- LMI launched a monthly webinar series called **LMI Learning Labs**. These labs provide timely insights into labor market topics and are designed to keep users informed about local job market trends. The sessions guide participants to relevant data sources and equip them with the knowledge to interpret and apply labor market information effectively.

- LMI compiled a curated list of **tools and links** to help users locate local labor market data quickly and efficiently.

13. LMI continued to create, maintain, and enhance interactive dashboards to help users easily access labor market information. A new addition, the Inflow-Outflow Dashboard, illustrates where people live versus where they work. It offers insights into commuting patterns and economic connections between counties. Several existing dashboards were also updated with new data, including:

- Occupational Employment Projections

- Ohio's Labor Force Statistics

- Industry Employment

- Ohio's Employment Status

- Work Opportunity Tax Credit

- Apprenticeship

- County Economic Profiles

Suggested Improvements to Future WIGS Requirements

It would be helpful to discuss how the BLS's move to annual long-term projections may affect WIG projections requirements in the future. Long-term planning of staff time and resource use is critical for success. Clear communication from ETA concerning the possibility of requiring annual long-term projections would allow Ohio to make better-informed planning decisions.

Summary

The Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information was very successful in completing the Workforce Information Grant deliverables for PY 2024. We have maintained the WID, produced state and substate industry and occupational employment projections and reports, and produced an annual economic analysis report for the Governor and the Governor's Executive Workforce Board, as required. We also have posted information, consulted with key partners, and produced special reports and analyses in a manner that best suits our customers' needs. We remain flexible in responding to customers' needs and continue to better align labor market initiatives with workforce and economic development initiatives.