

Workforce Estimating Conference

September 17, 2004 2:30pm

G-01 Pepper Building

Principal Attendees or Designees

Don Langston, Chair; Curtis Austin, Rebecca Rust, Jay Pfeiffer, Bonnie Marmor, Beth Lines, Max Ketterman, and Richard Stevens.

Other Attendees

Sally Kiser, Amy Baker, Joan Roddenberry, Susan Simpler, Bill Ammons, Wendy Dugan, Nancy Cordell, Man M. Le, Bill Dobson, Steve Kropp, Stephen Birch, Renee Watters, and Pamela Schenker.

Indexing

At the March 2004 meeting, the Workforce Estimating Conference directed Labor Market Statistics to research using an index for adjusting the wage thresholds used by the conference. Rebecca Rust of Labor Market Statistics explained that several indexing indicators had been analyzed and evaluated. The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) uses the Employment Cost Index (ECI) for adjusting wage data and it is the preferable index. Other indicators such as the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) wage rate are not meant to be a time series, so it should not be considered for this purpose.

A recommendation was made and accepted to use the ECI for adjusting the wage thresholds. For the 2005-2006 targeted occupation list (TOL), all wage thresholds will be adjusted by the ECI with the exception of the entry wage that will remain at \$9.00. For future TOLs, the WEC will use the ECI to adjust the wages and conferees will review the list based on this increase before making a final decision. The use of telephone conferencing was recommended as one method for discussing the adjustments.

Openings Thresholds

The members of the WEC discussed that the purpose of using openings and growth thresholds in preparing the TOL was to ensure that the occupations that are targeted are those that will continue to have openings and that there are enough new jobs to justify training. A recommendation was made and accepted to change the openings thresholds to:

- (1) 360 average annual openings and positive growth, or
- (2) 150 average annual openings with at least average growth.

Discussion also centered on the use of the statewide list for the regional list. A recommendation was made and accepted to organize a group of local partners in a working group to discuss recommendations and/or feedback at the local level. In the interim, a decision was made to allow the statewide list to be used as part of the regional lists and to review at the next meeting after input from regional partners, to be coordinated by Workforce Florida, Inc.

Training Codes

Bonnie Marmor discussed the training codes. A request was made to review the First Line Supervisors training codes and to verify that they were accurate. A recommendation

was made and approved to use the new training codes with the exception of First Line Supervisors until they could be validated.

Watch List

Discussion centered on that an occupation could fall off the list, but be very close to the wage and openings thresholds. This topic will need further investigation and the group agreed that it should be researched and discussed at the partner workgroup that will occur prior to the February conference. A recommendation should be made on how to address this possible situation at the February conference.

CIP to SOC

The CIP to SOC list has been completed. The new crosswalk does not limit a one-to-one match for all programs/occupations. This list will be shared via the WEC website (www.labormarketinfo.com/wec).

Other

The next meeting will be scheduled for February 2005. Notices will be sent out to the partners and interested parties.