



# BENTON COUNTY

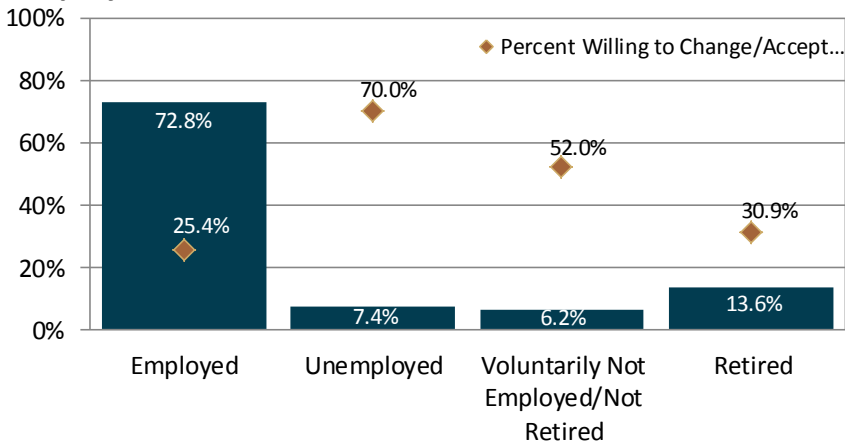
## LABORSHED ANALYSIS

A STUDY OF WORKFORCE CHARACTERISTICS  
RELEASED NOVEMBER 2012

# Laborshed Studies

A Laborshed is defined as the area or region from which an employment center draws its commuting workers. To determine the approximate boundaries of the Benton County Laborshed area, local employers supplied the ZIP code listings of where each of their employees reside. This Laborshed analysis addresses underemployment, the availability and willingness of current and prospective employees to change employment within the workforce, current and desired occupations, wages, hours worked and distance willing to commute to work.

## Employment Status\*



\*Employment status is self-identified by the survey respondent. The unemployment percentage above does not reflect the unemployment rate published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which applies a stricter definition.

**Total Potential Labor Force: 212,627 (entire Laborshed Area)**

**Estimated Number of Individuals Very Likely or Somewhat Likely to Change or Accept Employment (34,805)**

- 26,199 Employed
- 1,596 Unemployed
- 2,043 Voluntarily Not Employed, Not Retired
- 4,967 Retired

## Underemployment

The underemployed are composed of individuals who are working fewer than 35 hours per week but desire more hours; who are working at wages equal to or less than the national poverty level; and/or who are working in positions that do not meet their skill or education levels, or worked for higher wages at previous employment.

- 1.2% Inadequate hours (314 people)
- 1.2% Mismatch of skills (314 people)
- 0.7% Low income (183 people)
- 3.2% Total estimated underemployment (838 people)

Individuals may be underemployed for more than one reason, but are counted only once for total estimated underemployment.

## Industrial Classification of the Employed

Industry	% of Laborshed	# of Employed	% Employed	% Willing to Change Employment	% Unemployed
Manufacturing	17.4%	26,934	74.1%	16.3%	5.2%
Education	15.8%	24,457	69.6%	17.9%	3.6%
Healthcare & Social Services	14.6%	22,600	75.0%	22.2%	0.0%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	12.2%	18,885	71.4%	36.7%	14.3%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	10.1%	15,634	89.3%	28.0%	0.0%
Transportation, Communication & Utilities	9.3%	14,396	76.7%	17.4%	3.3%
Personal Services	6.1%	9,442	75.0%	33.3%	10.0%
Construction	4.5%	6,966	84.6%	18.2%	7.7%
Public Administration & Government	4.5%	6,966	57.9%	18.2%	5.3%
Professional Services	4.0%	6,192	55.6%	20.0%	33.3%
Agriculture, Forestry & Mining	1.2%	1,858	*	*	*
Entertainment & Recreation	0.3%	464	*	*	*

\* Insufficient survey data/refused

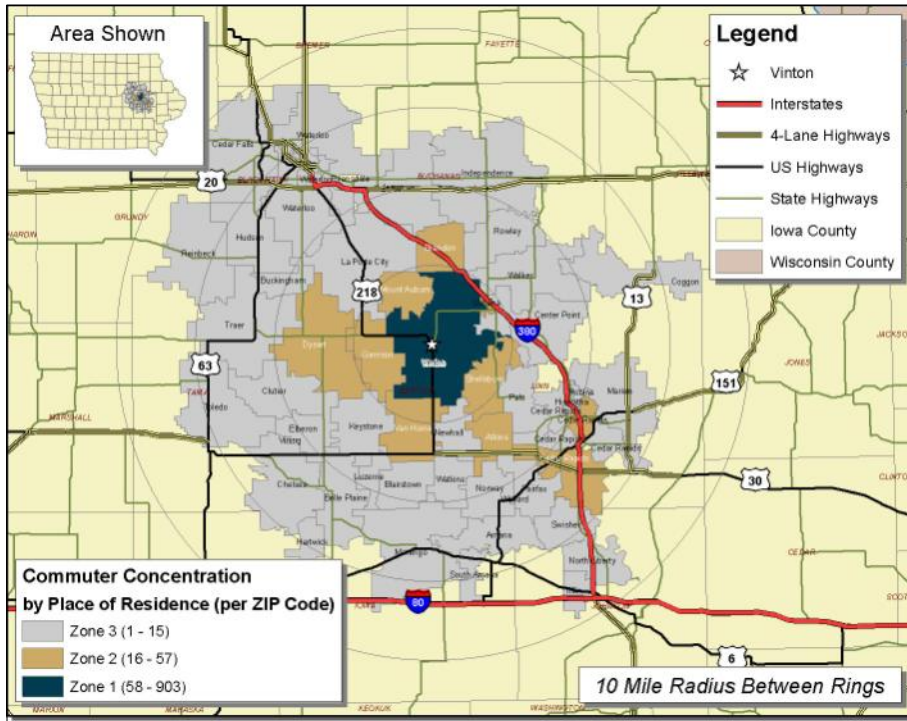
Survey respondents from the Benton County Laborshed area were asked to identify the industry in which they are currently working. The largest concentration of workers are employed in the manufacturing industry.

## Quick Facts

(Employed - willing to change employment)

- 16.0% are working multiple jobs
- Currently working an average of 43 hours per week
- Average age is 48 years old
- 35.1% currently working within the professional, paraprofessional & technical occupational category followed by 24.3% within the production, construction & material handling occupational category
- Most frequently identified job search sources:
  - Internet
    - [www.corridorcareers.com](http://www.corridorcareers.com)
    - [www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)
  - Local/Regional newspapers
    - The Gazette - Cedar Rapids
    - Vinton Livewire
    - Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier
  - Networking through friends, family and acquaintances
  - Local IowaWORKS Centers

# Benton County Laborshed Area



## Commuting Statistics

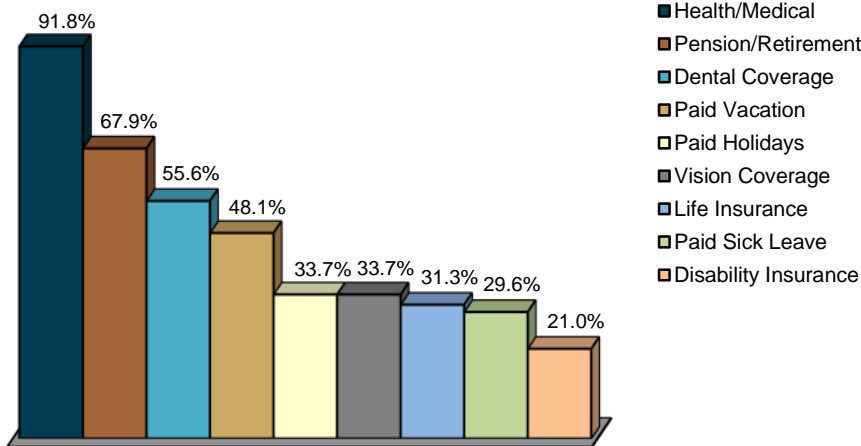
The map at the left represents commuting patterns into Vinton with the concentration per ZIP code represented in the legend.

Those who are willing to change/accept employment in the Benton County Laborshed area are willing to commute an average of 23 miles one way for employment opportunities.

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## Benefits Currently Offered



The survey provides the respondents an opportunity to identify employment benefits they currently are offered. The chart at left provides the percentage of responses from those that are currently employed. The top nine benefits are shown.

The majority (80.4%) of respondents state they are currently sharing the cost of health/medical insurance premiums with their employer. However, 10.7 percent indicate their employer pays the entire cost of insurance premiums.

## Education and Median Wage Characteristics by Industry

Industry	Education			Median Wages	
	Some Level Beyond High School	Associate Degree	Undergraduate Degree or Higher	Salary Wages (per year)	Non-Salary Wages (per hour)
Agriculture	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	53.8%	7.7%	30.8%	\$52,500	\$20.50
Manufacturing	63.8%	12.1%	29.3%	\$78,500	\$18.50
Transportation, Communication & Utilities	73.3%	26.7%	26.6%	\$55,000	\$17.20
Wholesale & Retail Trade	61.9%	21.4%	26.2%	\$55,000	\$16.70
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	78.6%	32.1%	35.7%	\$77,500	\$15.82
Healthcare & Social Services	77.1%	20.8%	37.5%	\$60,000	\$16.10
Personal Services	50.0%	10.0%	20.0%	\$65,000	\$10.50
Entertainment & Recreation	*	*	*	*	*
Professional Services	72.2%	11.1%	38.9%	\$64,000	\$10.00
Public Administration & Government	89.5%	31.6%	31.7%	\$52,000	\$15.90
Education	87.5%	8.9%	69.6%	\$54,500	\$12.94

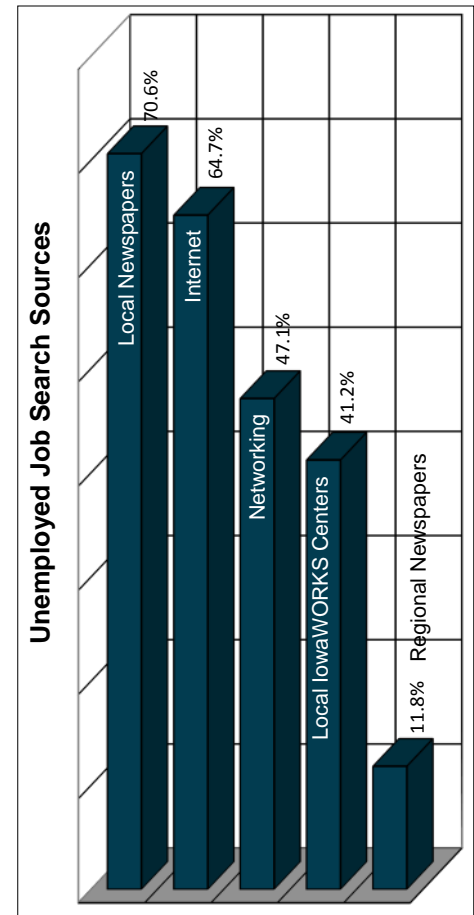
This table includes all respondents without consideration of employment status or willingness to change/enter employment.

\*Insufficient survey data/refused



## Unemployed - Those Willing to Enter/Re-enter Employment

- An estimated 1,596 unemployed individuals are willing to accept employment
- Average age is 49 years old
- 66.7% are male; 33.3% are female
- Education:
  - 81.0% have an education beyond high school
  - 14.3% have an associate degree
  - 28.5% have an undergraduate degree
  - 9.5% have a postgraduate/professional degree
- Estimated wage range to attract the upper 66-75% qualified hourly wage applicants is \$11.79 to \$12.00/hr. with a median of the lowest wage of \$10.00
- Willing to commute an average of 23 miles one way for the right opportunity
- 57.1% expressed interest in seasonal and 47.6% in temporary employment opportunities
- 38.1% expressed interest in working varied shifts (2nd, 3rd & split)
- Would prefer to enter employment that offers the following benefits:
  - Health/medical insurance - 68.8%
  - Pension/retirement options - 62.5%
  - Paid vacation - 43.8%
  - Paid holidays - 31.2%
  - Paid sick leave - 31.2%
  - Dental coverage - 18.8%
  - Life insurance - 12.5%
  - Prescription drug coverage - 12.5%
  - Paid time off - 6.2%
  - Stock options - 6.2%
  - Vision coverage - 6.2%
- 54.5% indicated they are seeking employment offers where the employer/employee share the cost of medical insurance premiums.



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City of Vinton



For more information regarding the Benton County Laborshed Analysis, contact:

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