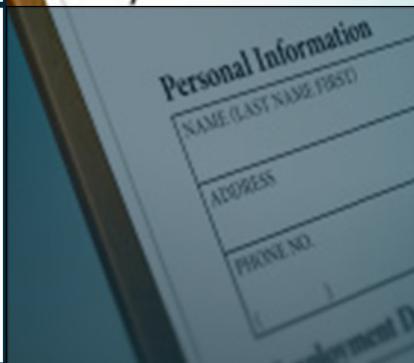


Great River Region

Des Moines, Henry, Lee & Louisa Counties

Workforce Needs Assessment



Released

2013

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Great River Region

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Great River Region

Iowa Workforce Development conducted the fourth annual Workforce Needs Assessment from August 2012 through December 2012. In addition to vacancy and retirement data, this year's survey included questions pertaining to average hourly starting wage and enhanced emphasis on fringe benefits. Analysis of the survey illustrates the demand for workers and skills required in the workforce. This information can be used by economic developers, government leaders, educators and state agencies to guide their decision making on issues related to workforce development, vocational training and employee recruitment programs.

Beginning in August 2012, 1,308 employers in the Great River Region were contacted and asked to complete the survey. Three attempts were made to contact each employer. By the end of the survey period (December 15, 2012), the survey had received 203 responses, yielding a 15.5 percent response rate.

Throughout this report, estimates and data are given by industry and by occupational category. Industry groups are developed around a specific product and employ many different occupations. Occupational categories are focused on the actual tasks done by a worker. The two formats are given to satisfy different end users of the data. Industry groups are of particular importance to economic developers and policy-makers. Occupational categories may be of more use to job seekers and educators.

Figure 1 details the survey respondents by industry, including the percentage of total current vacancies that are accounted for by each industry in the region. Vacancies are classified as current if they are, or will become, available within 12 months of the survey date.

These estimates are only valid if it is assumed that the vacancy rate for survey respondents and non-respondents is the same on average. The vacancy rate may be lower among non-respondents, as businesses that do not have current vacancies may be less likely to respond to the Workforce Needs Assessment Survey.

Figure 1
Survey Respondents by Industry and Percentage of Current Vacancies

Industry	Percent of Respondents	Percent of Total Vacancies Reported	Estimated Vacancies
Manufacturing	11.8%	27.4%	277
Construction	15.3%	14.6%	148
Accommodation & Food Services	9.4%	12.1%	122
Transportation & Warehousing	4.9%	11.5%	116
Healthcare & Social Services	11.8%	10.8%	110
Public Administration	4.9%	9.6%	97
Wholesale & Retail Trade	16.7%	7.0%	71
Administrative & Waste Services	1.0%	3.2%	32
Agriculture & Mining	2.5%	1.4%	15
Educational Services	1.5%	0.6%	6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	5.9%	0.6%	6
Information	3.4%	0.6%	6
Personal Services	4.9%	0.6%	6
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	1.5%	*	*
Management	*	*	*
Professional & Technical Services	3.0%	*	*
Utilities	1.5%	*	*
Total	100%	100%	1,012

*Insufficient data reported

Totals may vary due to rounding methods

Figure 2 (next page) shows estimated vacancies by occupational category. By breaking the data into separate occupational groups, we can see the majority of vacancies are within the transportation & material moving, architecture & engineering, construction & extraction and food preparation & serving related occupational categories, likewise, the highest number of vacancies by industry are in the manufacturing and construction industries. The occupational categories are clustered using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. Each broad category includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education or experience.

Figure 2
Percentage of Current Vacancies by Occupational Category

Occupational Category	Percent of Total Vacancies Reported	Estimated Vacancies
Transportation & Material Moving	15.9%	161
Architecture & Engineering	14.0%	142
Construction & Extraction	14.0%	142
Food Preparation & Serving Related	12.1%	122
Healthcare Support	7.0%	71
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	7.0%	71
Production	7.0%	71
Protective Service	5.1%	52
Office & Administrative Support	4.5%	45
Sales & Related	2.5%	26
Management	1.9%	19
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Related	1.3%	13
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	1.3%	13
Community & Social Science	1.3%	13
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	1.3%	13
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	1.3%	13
Personal Care & Service	1.3%	13
Computer & Mathematical Science	0.6%	6
Education, Training & Library	0.6%	6
Business & Financial Operations	*	*
Legal	*	*
Life, Physical & Social Science	*	*
Total	100%	1,012

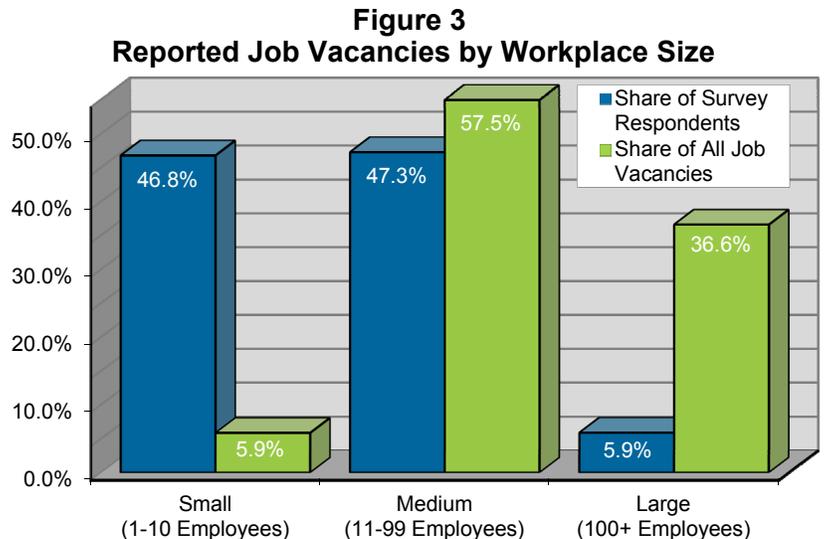
*Insufficient data reported
Totals may vary due to rounding methods

Of the survey respondents, 50 (24.6%) reported having one or more current or anticipated job vacancies, while 153 respondents (75.4%) reported having no job vacancies. A total of 157 current job vacancies were reported for the region, consisting of 72.6 percent full-time, 17.2 percent part-time and 10.2 percent seasonal or temporary positions. When asked why positions are currently vacant, employers responded as follows:

- 32.7% - Permanent business growth/expansion
- 18.6% - Seasonal business growth/expansion
- 10.9% - Replacing retiring employee
- 37.8% - Replacing worker who has left (not retired)

Figure 3 shows the breakdown of job vacancies by employer size. Of employers that responded with job vacancies, 46.8 percent were businesses with 10 or fewer employees, 47.3 percent had between 11 and 99 employees and 5.9 percent had 100 employees or more.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of reported job vacancies by employer size. The response rate for each employer size category is shown next to the respective percentage share of reported job vacancies. While large employers only accounted for 5.9 percent of the survey responses, they reported over one-third (36.6%) of the total job vacancies in the Great River Region.



One measure of workforce demand is determined by the job vacancy rate. With an estimated 1,012 job vacancies and a regional employment total of 53,266¹, there is a 1.9 percent vacancy rate or approximately two jobs available for every 100 filled positions. A low vacancy rate indicates a lack of jobs while a high vacancy rate may indicate a shortage of qualified workers or simply an industry with a high employee turnover. Conversely, a low vacancy rate may indicate contraction within the industry, an oversupply of workers, or lower than average turnover. It should be noted that many states do not use the same methods when calculating job vacancy rates and many states do not perform such calculations annually.

**Figure 4
Vacancy Rate by Industry**

Industry	Regional Employment ¹	Vacancy Rate
Construction	2,331	6.3%
Agriculture & Mining	339	4.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	2,664	4.4%
Public Administration	2,588	3.7%
Accommodation & Food Services	3,348	3.6%
Manufacturing	11,759	2.4%
Healthcare & Social Services	7,355	1.5%
Administrative & Waste Services	2,386	1.3%
Information	463	1.3%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	10,993	0.6%
Personal Services	1,205	0.5%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,467	0.4%
Educational Services	4,410	0.1%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	595	*
Management	69	*
Professional & Technical Services	958	*
Utilities	336	*

*Insufficient data reported

It is important to note the difference between the number of vacant positions and the vacancy rate. An industry may have a low vacancy rate but have many vacant positions. This is because, when compared to their total workforce, the number of vacant positions is small in comparison.

Figure 4 shows the vacancy rate and how many jobs are available per 100 filled positions by industry. The industries within the region with the highest vacancy rates are construction (6.3%), agriculture & mining (4.4%) and transportation & warehousing (4.4%). These industries currently have relatively more vacant positions when compared to the size of their workforce. When looking at vacancy rates, it is important to understand the various reasons an industry might have many vacant positions open relative to their total staff.

**Figure 5
Vacancy Rate by Occupational Category**

Figure 5 breaks down the vacancy rate by occupational category. The categories with the highest vacancy rates are architecture & engineering (25.4%); construction & extraction (8.1%); and farming, fishing & forestry (6.5%). The services and construction categories typically have high vacancy rates due to high employee turnover. Employers are constantly hiring for many of these positions, while the high vacancy rate for the healthcare category is usually attributed to growth in employment and lack of workforce. Total employment by occupational category may differ from total employment by industry because of confidentiality issues in employer surveys.

Occupational Category	Regional Employment ²	Vacancy Rate
Architecture & Engineering	560	25.4%
Construction & Extraction	1,760	8.1%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	200	6.5%
Protective Service	1,210	4.3%
Healthcare Support	1,820	3.9%
Transportation & Material Moving	4,890	3.3%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	4,240	2.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	2,420	2.9%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Related	520	2.5%
Computer & Mathematical Science	360	1.7%
Community & Social Science	860	1.5%
Management	1,690	1.1%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	1,450	0.9%
Personal Care & Service	1,640	0.8%
Production	8,740	0.8%
Office & Administrative Support	6,720	0.7%
Sales & Related	3,870	0.7%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	3,090	0.4%
Education, Training & Library	4,150	0.1%
Business & Financial Operations	1,160	*
Legal	150	*
Life, Physical & Social Science	170	*

*Insufficient data reported

¹Annual 2012 total regional employment from Iowa Workforce Development

²Regional employment by occupational category computed from 2011-2012 Iowa Local Employment Dynamics

Figure 6 presents the Hiring Demand Index (HDI)³ by occupational category. The HDI is another way of looking at the workforce needs within the economy. The vacancy rate shows us the overall demand for workers, but can be misleading because of employee turnover. To account for this, we adjust the vacancy rate by employee turnover to see which industries or jobs are in high demand, using the following equation:

$$(Industry\ Vacancy\ Rate \div Avg.\ Vacancy\ Rate) \div (Industry\ Turnover\ Rate \div Avg.\ Turnover\ Rate)$$

Example: The food preparation & serving related occupational category has an above average vacancy rate of 2.9 percent, while the vacancy rate for all categories is 2.0 percent. This implies that the workers within the category have a greater hiring demand than workers in other occupational categories. However, the turnover rate for employees in this category (defined as how often the industry hires for the same job within a year) is also much higher than others. The category has a turnover rate of 39.0 percent, while the turnover rate for all occupations is 27.1 percent. The HDI for the food preparation & serving related occupational category, is calculated as follows:

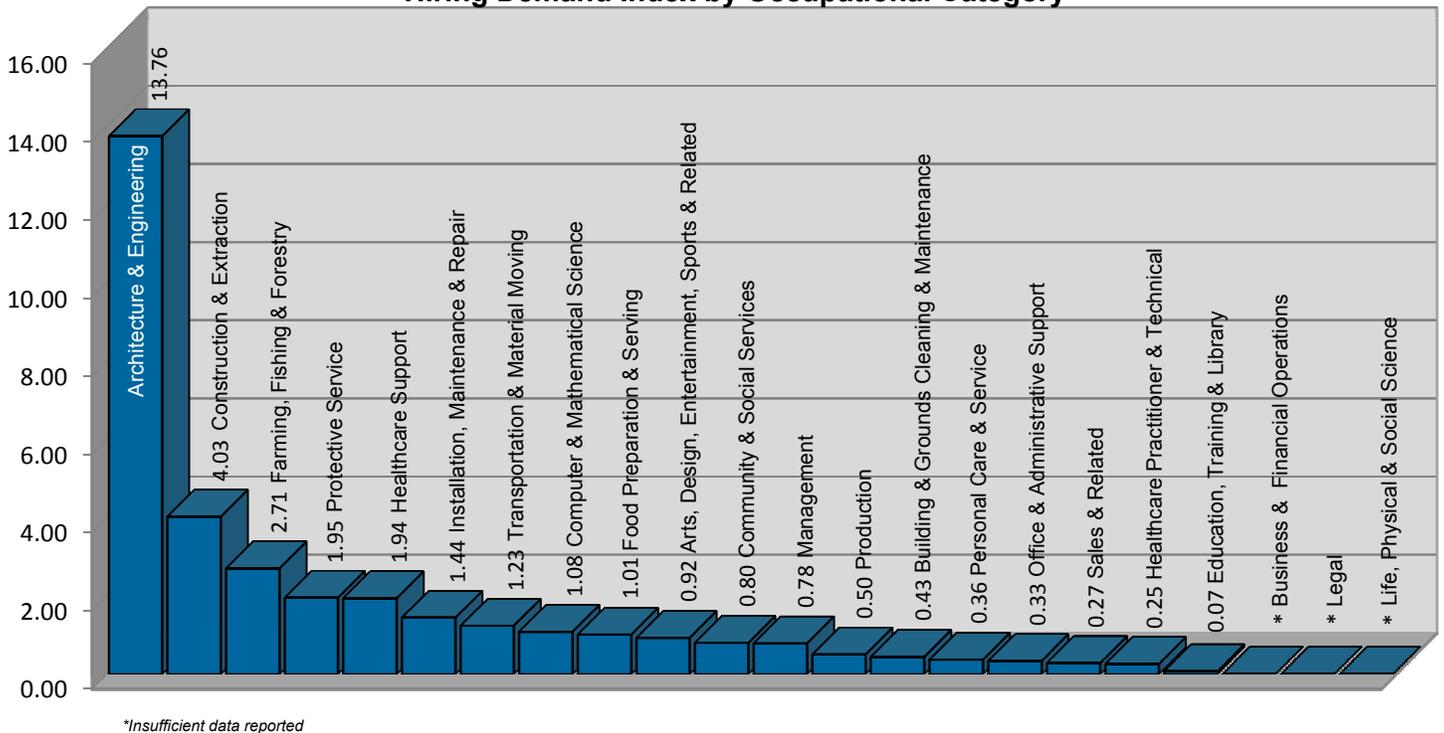
$$(2.9\% \div 2.0\%) \div (39.0\% \div 27.1\%) = 1.01$$

Using the HDI, we can see that the hiring demand for the food preparation & serving related occupations is not as high as it may have previously appeared. Note, the vacancy rate is calculated as the total estimated vacancies over the total estimated employment within the region. Using the average of the vacancy rates in each occupational category would be inaccurate due to very high and very low rates and the lack of data in some categories.

A value of one is the average demand for all industries or occupations. A value greater than one means a higher demand for workers, while a value lower than one means a lower than average demand for workers.

By comparing the Hiring Demand Index with the vacancy rates of an occupational category, we can see in which occupations is there a real unmet need for workers. It is also in these occupations that employers will need to pay a higher wage to attract qualified workers. This analysis can be an important tool for economic developers, policy-makers, educators and job seekers.

Figure 6
Hiring Demand Index by Occupational Category



³The Hiring Demand Index (HDI) adjusts industry vacancy rates, from this survey, by industry employee turnover rates which are computed from 2011 Iowa Local Employment Dynamics.

Requirements, Skills & Training

Employers were asked about the education/training and experience requirements of applicants for their reported job vacancies. The results for current job vacancies are shown below in **Figure 7** and **Figure 8**.

Figure 7
Education Required - Current Vacancies

Education Required	Percent
No Educational Requirement	17.6%
High School Education/GED	37.8%
Vocational/Technical Training	23.6%
Associate Degree	1.4%
Undergraduate Degree	18.2%
Postgraduate/Professional Degree	1.4%

Figure 8
Experience Required - Current Vacancies

Experience Required	Percent
No Experience Required	30.4%
Less than 1 Year	22.3%
1-2 Years	24.3%
3-5 Years	20.9%
More than 5 Years	2.1%

Employers were asked their perceptions on the degree to which job applicants possessed soft, basic and occupational skills. In addition, employers were asked if applicants, who may or may not possess the necessary skills for the job vacancy, were being disqualified due to the results of controlled substance testing or background checks. The results for all employers are shown below in **Figure 9**.

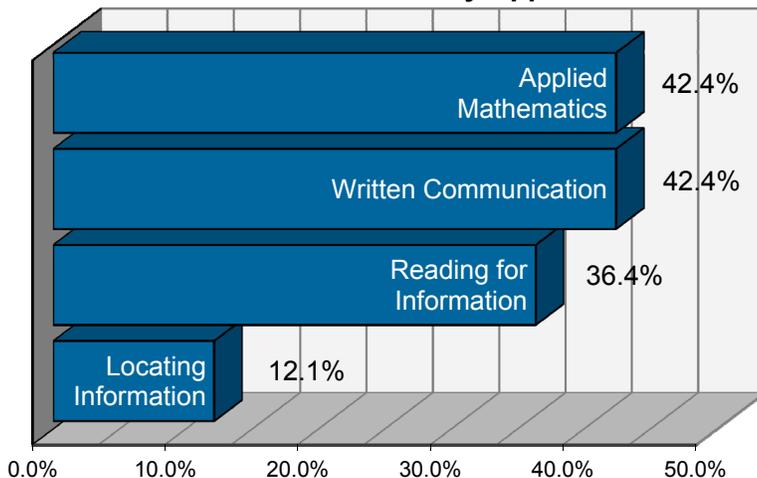
We can begin to analyze any workforce gaps by comparing the inventory of skills needed by employers and those skills held by the population of workers as presented in a Laborshed analysis. This gap is then analyzed and the necessary training and education programs can be formalized through a Skillshed study.

Figure 9
Perception of Applicants

Employer's Perceptions of Job Applicants	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
In general, applicants fulfill all necessary requirements for the job.	10.3%	34.4%	35.4%	13.7%	6.2%
In general, applicants possess the basic skills required for the job.	10.3%	42.8%	29.9%	13.9%	3.1%
In general, applicants possess the soft skills required for the job.	6.1%	30.1%	39.8%	20.4%	3.6%
In general, applicants possess the occupational skills required for the job.	7.7%	26.0%	33.2%	26.0%	7.1%
There is often a problem filling this position because applicants are disqualified due to controlled substance testing.	2.1%	7.3%	30.6%	19.1%	40.9%
There is often a problem filling this position because applicants are disqualified for failure to pass a background check.	4.6%	11.3%	32.3%	22.1%	29.7%

Figures 10, 11 and 12 break down basic, soft and occupational skills that employers reported were lacking by applicants to fill open positions.

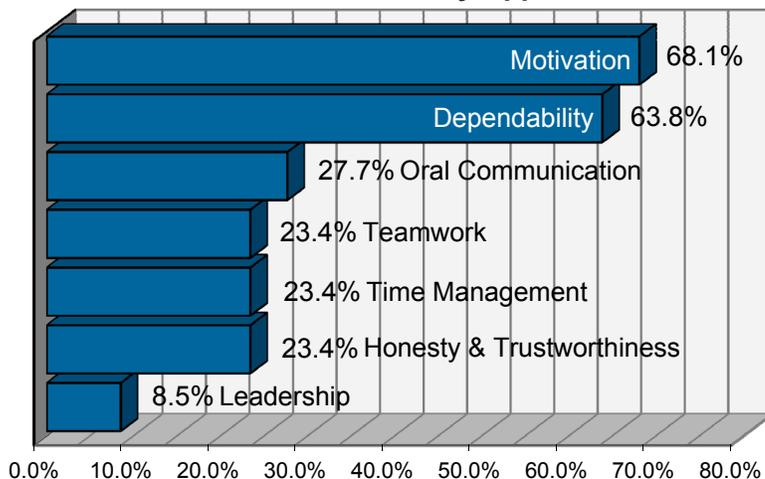
Figure 10
Basic Skills Lacked by Applicants



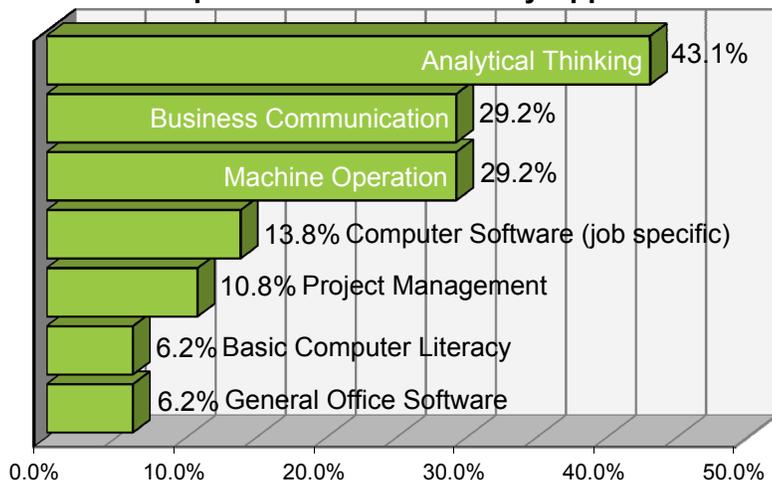
Basic skills are those skills developed during the elementary and middle part of an individual's education. These skills include literacy, numeracy (the ability to do arithmetic and reason with numbers), basic computer skills and organization. Almost one-fifth (17.0%) of employers surveyed feel that applicants lack basic skills needed for the job. The Skilled Iowa initiative provides a means to benchmark and certify applicant's skills in Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information and Locating Information through the National Career Readiness Certificate testing program. More information on Skilled Iowa can be found at www.skillediowa.org.

Soft skills refer to skills associated with an individual’s habits, personality and character. Soft skills include timeliness, responsibility, integrity and self-esteem. Also included are interpersonal skills such as leadership ability, customer service and teamwork. Individuals with strong soft skills are better suited for working within an organization, as well as with customers and, therefore, are valued by employers. Nearly one-fourth (24.0%) of employers surveyed feel that applicants lack soft skills needed for the job.

**Figure 11
Soft Skills Lacked by Applicants**



**Figure 12
Occupational Skills Lacked by Applicants**



Occupational skills are the technical and know-how skills that apply directly to a job. Occupational skills are often referred to as “hard skills” and are primarily job-specific. In general, occupational skills include analytical skills, managerial ability, physical ability, knowledgeable and experience. The exact meaning behind these skills varies, depending on the job in question. Almost one-third (33.1%) of employers surveyed feel that applicants lack occupational skills needed for the job.

In the event that current or newly hired employees are lacking the soft, basic and occupational skills necessary to fill current job vacancies, employers were asked where they send employees to upgrade these skills. These results are listed in **Figure 13**.

**Figure 13
Where Additional Training is Offered**

Training Provider	Percent
In-house training	55.7%
Commercial training provider	25.6%
Online	21.2%
Employee self-directed training	16.7%
Other	12.8%
No training provided	12.4%
College/University	11.3%
Trade school	4.4%

Figure 13 indicates where employers are sending their employees for training to satisfy job requirements. When training is provided, most employers are currently using in-house training or commercial training providers. Almost all (89.1%) of employers report taking employee input under consideration when planning what training to provide. More than one-third (33.5%) of employers also expressed an interest in working more closely with local education providers to implement training programs.

Recruitment

The time span from when a job vacancy becomes available to the time it is filled is referred to as the recruitment period.

Figure 14 details the recruitment periods reported by employers within the Great River Region.

Figure 14
Recruitment Period for Current Vacancies

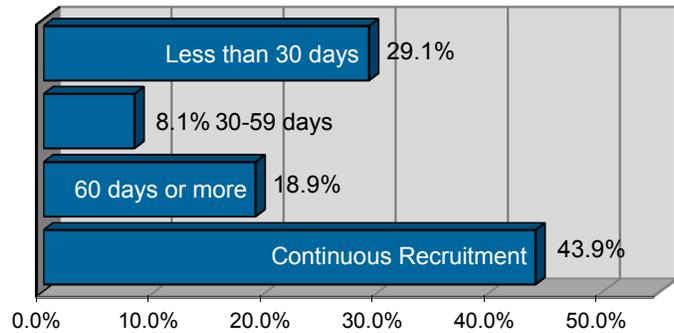
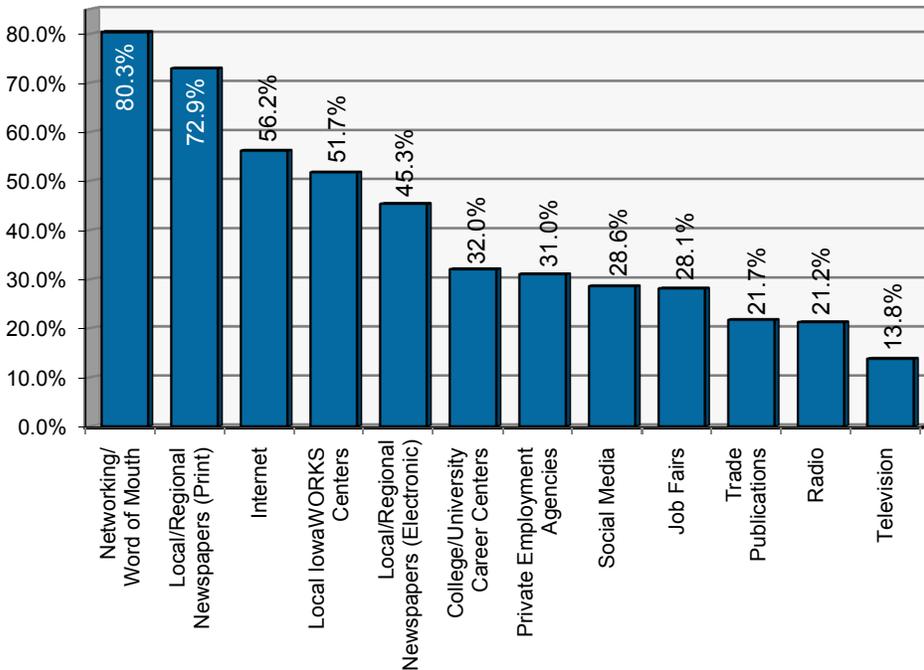


Figure 15
Recruitment Media Utilization



Employers who have a clear understanding of the job search resources used by workers in their respective industry will maximize their effectiveness and efficiency in attracting qualified applicants. Understanding and utilizing traditional and non-traditional advertising media will provide employers with a more focused and effective recruitment tool. Residents living in the region are exposed to numerous sources by which employers communicate job openings and new hiring. Therefore, it is important to understand what sources potential workers rely on when looking for jobs in the area.

Figure 15 details employer media use for recruitment purposes versus the media use of those looking for employment opportunities.

Employers utilized a variety of media to recruit potential employees. Respondents indicated that the most useful media outlets were networking/word of mouth, followed by print editions of local and regional newspapers, the internet, local IowaWORKS centers, electronic editions of local/regional newspapers, college/university career centers and private employment agencies.

Potential employees, on the other hand, were most likely to go first to the internet, followed by local/regional newspapers, local IowaWORKS centers, networking/word of mouth and private employment agencies when looking for jobs.

These mismatches in advertising versus search media usage can increase recruitment time periods and cost. More information on job search media usage can be found in the Great River Region Laborshed Report (<http://www.iowaworkforce.org/lmi/labsur/greatriverregionexecsum2011.pdf>).

Figure 16
Average Wages by Occupational Category

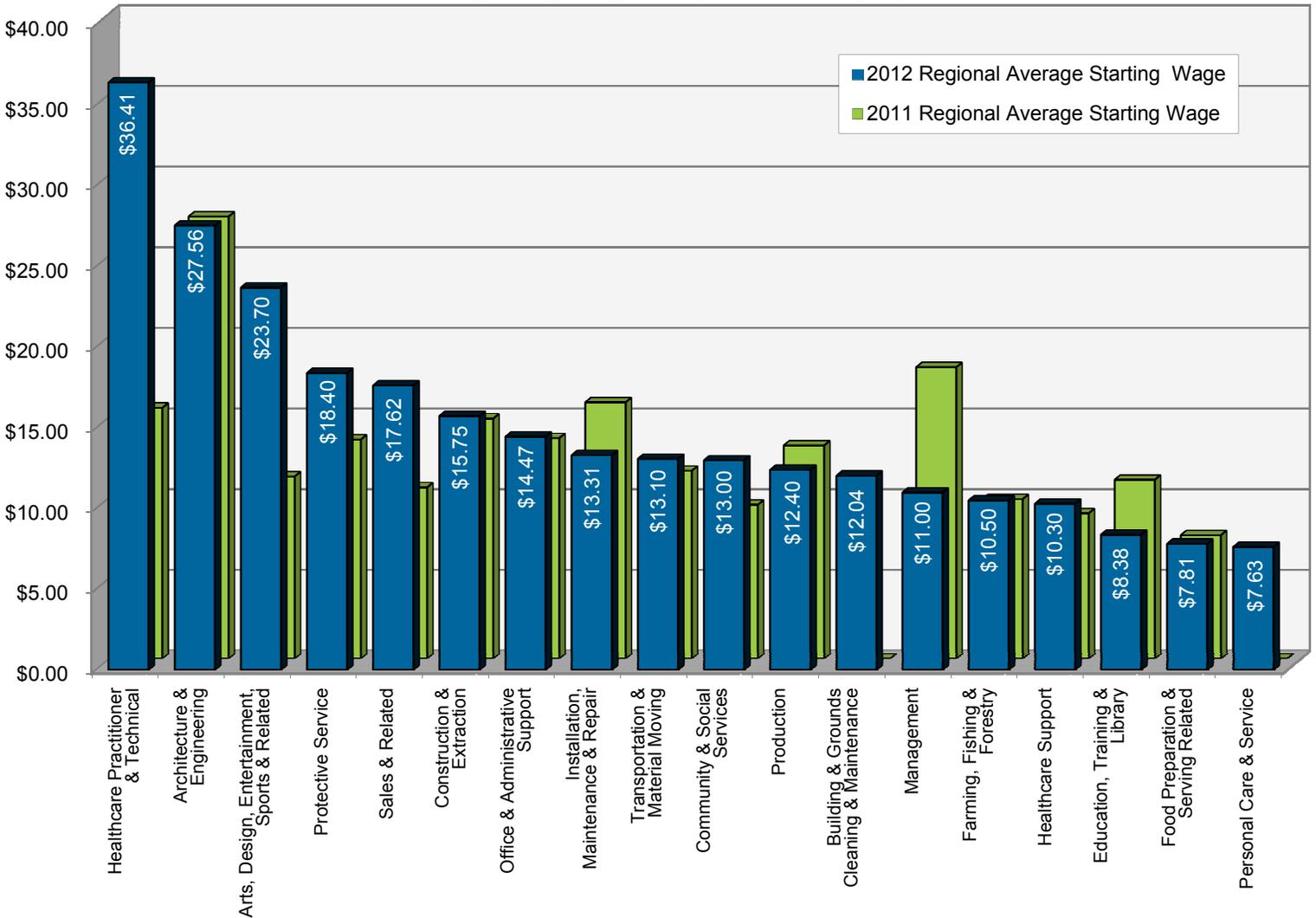


Figure 16 is the 2012 survey-reported average starting wages by occupational category with 2011 survey-reported average starting wages for comparison. This is important for job seekers in determining what jobs can provide a livable wage and have higher earning potential. Employers can use the information to determine their competitiveness with wages among all other categories. From the graph, we see that the healthcare practitioner & technical; architecture & engineering; arts, design, entertainment, sports & related; and protective services occupational categories pay the highest average starting wages. **Appendix A** (page 19) shows occupations in management; architecture & engineering; computer & mathematical science; business & financial operations; and healthcare practitioner & technical categories provide the highest entry level wages. More wage information including a comparison between average occupational wages to statewide average entry level wages and statewide average hourly wages can be found in **Appendix A**.

Benefits Offered

Employers may also use benefits to attract potential employees. Employers were asked about the types of benefits being offered for their current full time and part time job vacancies. These results are shown in **Figures 17, 18 & 19**.

Figure 17
Insurance Benefits Offered by Employers

Insurance Benefits Offered	Full Time Positions	Part-Time Positions
Health/Medical	89.5%	7.5%
Prescription Drug Plans	79.3%	5.9%
Life Insurance	66.2%	8.1%
Dental	59.9%	6.7%
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	52.4%	5.2%
Short-Term Disability	49.0%	5.2%
Long Term Disability	43.3%	5.2%
Vision	35.8%	5.2%

Paid leave is another common form of employee benefit. Holiday leave varies by company in both the number of days and the particular holidays recognized. Some employers may also offer increased holiday pay in lieu of time off. Similarly, the specifics of maternity/paternity leave programs vary widely among different employers. Combined paid time off (PTO) refers to programs that allow employees to accumulate paid time off in a single pool to be used for either vacation or sick leave versus situations in which employees accrue time in separate pools.

Figure 19
Other Benefits Offered by Employers

Other Benefits Offered	Full Time Positions	Part-Time Positions
Bonuses	64.9%	29.8%
Company Vehicle	58.0%	29.5%
Retirement Package	48.0%	21.4%
Uniform Allowances	40.0%	20.0%
Flex Spending Accounts/Cafeteria Plans	36.2%	10.5%
Tuition Assistance	34.7%	13.1%
Shift Differential Pay	26.8%	14.5%
Profit Sharing/Stock Options	22.3%	8.5%
Employee Assistance Program	18.9%	10.8%
Wellness Programs	18.8%	8.5%
Relocation/Moving Expenses	15.0%	3.1%
Childcare	2.7%	3.0%

The Regional Laborshed Analysis was used to identify current benefit packages being offered to employees within the region. These benefits include; health/medical insurance (90.6%), pension/retirement options (68.3%), dental coverage (45.4%), paid vacation (45.0%), life insurance (28.5%), paid sick leave (25.7%), vision coverage (23.9%), paid holidays (22.4%), disability insurance (16.1%), prescription drug coverage (9.4%) and paid time off (8.7%). Almost three-quarters (71.9%) of the employers and employees are reported as sharing in the premium costs of health/medical insurance, 18.7 percent of the employers are reported as covering the entire cost of insurance premiums while 9.4 percent of the employers/employees have made other arrangements.

Insurance is a common benefit offered by employers. Different types of health care insurance (vision, dental, etc.) may be offered as part of an umbrella plan. Respondents were asked to indicate those separately if included in a combined package. Employers were not asked about workers compensation insurance as that program is intended to cover employer liability and not employee needs directly.

Figure 18
Paid Leave Benefits Offered by Employers

Paid Leave Benefits Offered	Full Time Positions	Part-Time Positions
Holiday	91.3%	30.6%
Vacation	90.7%	24.1%
Bereavement/Funeral	75.5%	27.1%
Sick Leave	50.7%	17.3%
Personal Days/Floating Holidays	49.3%	15.2%
Combined Paid Time Off (PTO)	42.6%	13.4%
Maternity/Paternity	37.7%	13.0%
Training	37.6%	15.3%

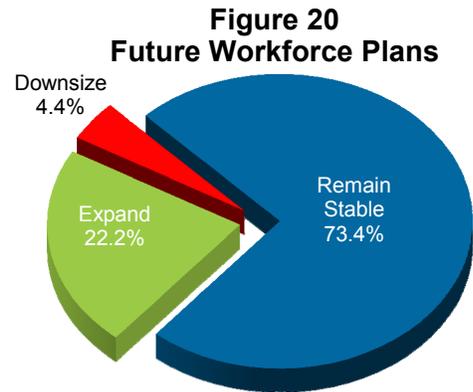
In addition to insurance and paid leave employers offer a range of other benefits. Bonuses are common and are offered on a wide range of criteria including individual performance incentives, longevity awards and company-wide success. Company vehicle benefits include mileage reimbursement for the use of employee owned vehicles. Retirement packages may be either defined benefit (traditional pensions) or defined contribution (401K). Depending on the type of retirement package payments may or may not include either employer or employee matching contributions. Childcare benefits include both reimbursement programs and on-site facilities.

Future Plans

Employers were asked a series of questions about their plans for future payroll changes. They were asked whether they planned on increasing or decreasing the number of workers on payroll or if they planned to keep their workforce at its current strength, timeframe for the change, reasons for the change and jobs that would be affected by the change.

When analyzing reported workforce changes, it is important to note not only the specific reasons provided by employers but also the business and economic environment during which the employers were surveyed. Because of the great uncertainty surrounding the near-term economic health of the region, many employers were not able to state their workforce plans in any definite way.

Figure 20 shows the proportion of employers planning to expand, reduce or maintain the size of their workforce. Nearly three-fourths (73.4%) of employers are planning to keep the size of their workforce steady while 22.2 percent of employers plan to expand their workforce and only 4.4 percent plan to reduce their workforce.



**Figure 21
Net Reported Payroll Change**

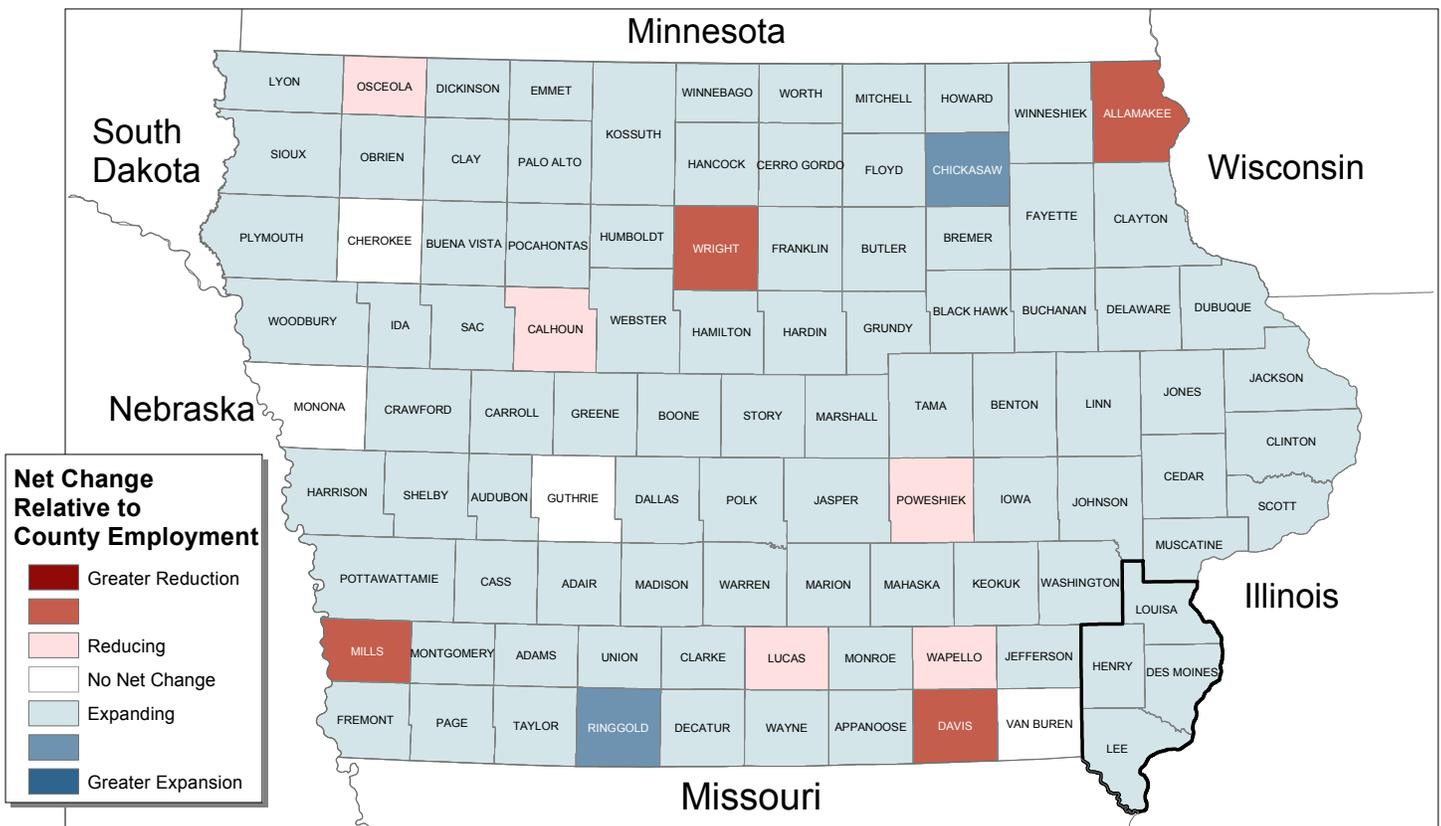


Figure 21 The Net Reported Payroll Change map shows the relative intensity of plans by employers to expand or reduce their workforces in each county in terms of total jobs to be created or cut, normalized by the total employment of the county. The darker red indicates greater expected reductions, relative to local employment, while the darker blue indicates counties in which employers plan to expand most heavily, relative to local employment. Counties in white indicate a net-zero or no response. Separate maps of expansion and reduction can be found in **Appendix B**.

Planned Workforce Expansion

Over one-fifth (22.2%) of the employers surveyed are planning to expand their workforce in the future. Of those employers planning on expanding their workforce, 55.8 percent indicated they were planning to do within 12 months, 30.2 percent indicated that they were planning to expand in one to two years, 11.6 percent are planning to expand in two to three years and 2.4 percent plan to expand in more than three years. Almost three-fifths (55.8%) of the companies planning to expand would be interested in working with a local education provider to set up a program for training/educating potential employees to fill these needs.

Figure 22
Reasons for Payroll Expansion
Ranked by Relative Importance

Reasons for Expansion
Entry into new markets
Increase share of existing market
Meet current market demands
Insourcing of business operations
Reduction of overtime
Opening a new location
Changes in tax or regulatory incentives
Merger/Acquisition

Respondents were asked to rank, in order of significance, possible reasons for expanding, maintaining or reducing the size of their workforce. **Figures 22, 23** and **27** (on page 13) show the average importance of reasons for each case.

Figure 22 compares employers' stated reasons for planning to increase the size of their workforce. The reasons indicated as being of the greatest importance in deciding to expand include entry into new markets, plans to increase their share of existing markets and meeting current market demands. Common other reasons include preparing for future retirements.

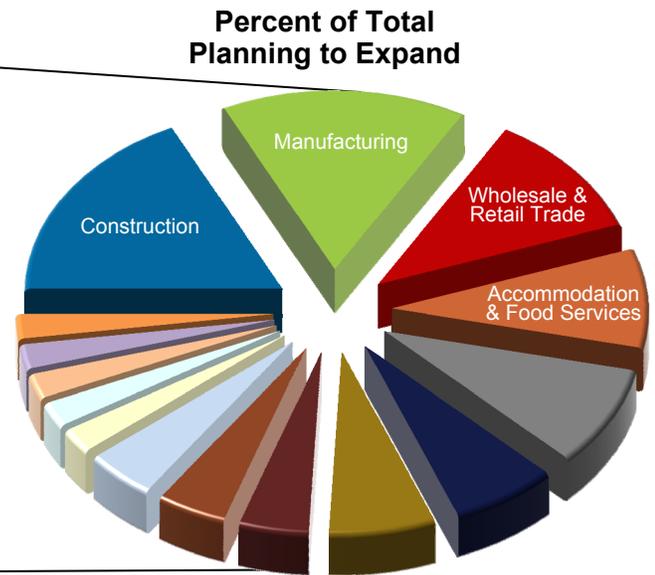
Figure 23
Constraints Preventing Payroll Expansion
Ranked by Relative Importance

Figure 23 compares employers' stated constraints to increasing the size of their workforce. The reasons indicated as being of the greatest importance in preventing the expansion of workforces include cost of additional labor, expenses related to benefits and competition within existing markets. Common other reasons include upcoming retirement of business principal.

Impediments for Expansion
Cost of additional labor
Expense related to benefits
Competition within existing markets
No desire to expand
Lack of available skilled workforce
Uncertainty in current market demands
Barriers to entering new markets
Limited access to capital
Tax or regulatory issues
Insufficient space at current location/inability to find appropriate new location
Supply chain limitations
Don't know steps/processes needed to expand
Planned merger/acquisition or business sale/transfer

**Figure 24
Planned Payroll Expansion**

Industry	Percent of Each Industry	Percent of Total
Construction	25.8%	17.8%
Manufacturing	29.2%	15.6%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	14.7%	11.2%
Accommodation & Food Services	21.1%	8.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	40.0%	8.9%
Healthcare & Social Services	12.5%	6.7%
Information	42.9%	6.7%
Educational Services	66.7%	4.4%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	16.7%	4.4%
Professional & Technical Services	33.3%	4.4%
Administrative & Waste Services	50.0%	2.2%
Agriculture & Mining	20.0%	2.2%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	33.3%	2.2%
Personal Services	10.0%	2.2%
Public Administration	10.0%	2.2%
Management	*	*
Utilities	*	*



*Insufficient data reported

Figure 24 shows those employers who are planning to expand by industry. The “Percent of Each Industry” column shows what percentage of employers in each industry are planning to expand their payroll. The “Percent of Total” column shows what percentage of all businesses planning to expand their payroll is accounted for by each industry. For example, 25.8 percent of all businesses in the construction industry are planning to expand their payroll in the future. Those businesses within the construction industry make up 17.8 percent of all the businesses in the survey that are planning to expand their payrolls in the future.

**Figure 25
Timing of Planned Expansion**

Estimated Time for Expansion	Percent of Respondents
Within 12 months	55.8%
1-2 years	30.2%
2-3 years	11.6%
More than 3 years	2.4%

Figure 26 shows the percent of planned expansion by occupational category. Transportation & material moving represents the largest category among current vacancies (**Figure 2**, page 2) and the category accounts for 6.7 percent of the planned payroll expansion positions. Production occupations, on the other hand, represent 7.0 percent of current vacancies and employers planning to expand their payrolls indicated they plan on increasing payroll most frequently within this category. The occupational categories that will be most affected are: production, construction & extraction, protective service and transportation & material moving.

Figure 25 shows the timeframe for those employers who are planning to expand their payrolls.

**Figure 26
Planned Payroll Expansion by Occupational Category**

Occupational Category	Percent of Planned Expansion
Production	46.3%
Construction & Extraction	11.6%
Protective Service	8.3%
Transportation & Material Moving	6.7%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	6.4%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	6.2%
Community & Social Science	2.6%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	1.7%
Architecture & Engineering	1.4%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	1.4%
Healthcare Support	1.4%
Personal Care & Service	1.4%
Life, Physical & Social Science	1.2%
Sales & Related	1.2%
Business & Financial Operations	1.0%
Office & Administrative Support	0.8%
Computer & Mathematical Science	0.2%
Education, Training & Library	0.2%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Related	*
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	*
Legal	*
Management	*

*Insufficient data reported

Planned Workforce Reduction

Very few (4.4%) of the employers surveyed are planning to reduce their workforce in the future. Of those employers planning on reducing their workforce, 77.8 percent indicated they were planning to do so within 12 months and 22.2 percent plan to reduce the size of their workforces in the next one to two years. One-third (33.3%) of the companies planning to downsize would be interested in working with a local education provider to set up programs to train/educate employees to transition to new jobs.

Figure 27
Reasons for Workforce Reduction
Ranked by Relative Importance

Figure 27 compares employer's stated reasons for planning to reduce the size of their workforce. The reasons indicated as being of greatest importance in deciding to reduce the size of workforces include reduced shares of existing markets, responding to reduced market demands, and closing an existing location. Commonly cited other reasons for companies reducing their workforce include the upcoming completion of a large project.

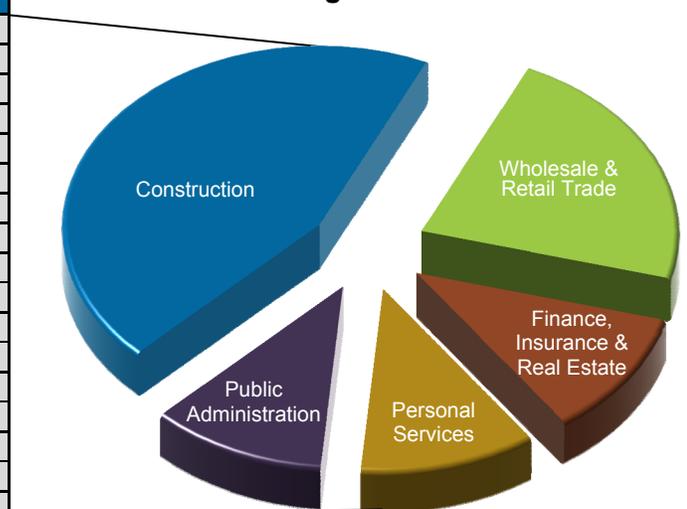
Reasons for Downsizing
Reduced share of existing market
Respond to reduced market demands
Closing an existing location
Business sale or closure
Expenses related to benefits
Reduced profits from current operations
Outsourcing of business operations
Changes in tax or regulatory burdens
Exit from existing markets or business division closing

The middle column in **Figure 28**, "Percent of Each Industry," shows what percentage of each industry is planning to reduce their payroll in the future. The far right column, "Percent of Total," shows what percentage of all businesses planning to reduce their payroll is accounted for by each industry. For example, 12.9 percent of all businesses in the construction industry are planning to reduce their payroll in the future. Those businesses within the construction industry make up 44.4 percent of all the businesses in the survey that are planning to reduce their payrolls in the future.

Figure 28
Planned Payroll Reduction

Industry	Percent of Each Industry	Percent of Total
Construction	12.9%	44.4%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	5.9%	22.3%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8.3%	11.1%
Personal Services	10.0%	11.1%
Public Administration	10.0%	11.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	*	*
Administrative & Waste Services	*	*
Agriculture & Mining	*	*
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	*	*
Educational Services	*	*
Healthcare & Social Services	*	*
Information	*	*
Management	*	*
Manufacturing	*	*
Professional & Technical Services	*	*
Transportation & Warehousing	*	*
Utilities	*	*

**Percent of Total
Planning to Downsize**



* Insufficient data reported

Retirement

Currently, there are 2,315 individuals over the age of 64 working throughout the Great River Region. They represent approximately 4.3 percent of the total workforce. The personal services (8.1%); educational services (7.2%); and transportation & warehousing (6.8%) industries have the highest percentage of their workforce over the age of 64. There are more males than females in this portion of the workforce, with 50.6 and 49.4 percent respectively⁴.

Of those employees eligible to retire, almost all (94.9%) of them meet the current skill requirements of the positions they occupy. It's also notable that retirement eligibility requirements do vary by employer and industry.

While the number of retirees can be somewhat hard for employers to gauge as they look toward the future, **Figure 30** presents the annual estimated number of eligible retirees through 2016. Recognizing that some employees will not retire the year that they first become eligible, employers were asked not to double count employees who were eligible to retire in subsequent years.

There are an estimated 2,294 employees already eligible to retire who have remained in their positions. These retirement-eligible employees may be choosing to remain in the workforce due to their employer's retention efforts or due to personal reasons. According to the survey, an average of 1.1 percent of the region's workforce becomes eligible for retirement each year (573 divided by total employment of about 53,266 workers). Future analysis of trend data will help us understand how many retirement eligible workers are remaining in the workforce and for how long.

The future year estimates in subsequent reports will reflect employees who did not retire in the year they actually were eligible as they may choose to continue their employment because of retention efforts by employers.

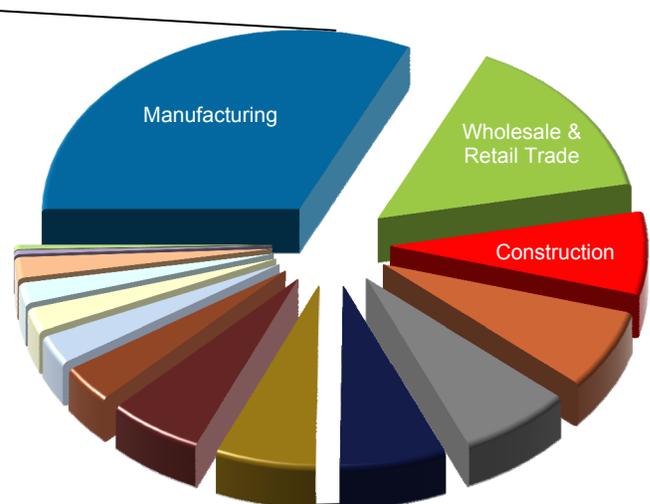
Figure 30
Estimate of Those Newly Eligible to Retire



Figure 31 shows the estimated percentage of potential worker loss due to retirement by industry. In the next five years, there will be a significant number of workers eligible for retirement from the manufacturing; wholesale & retail trade; construction; and finance, insurance & real estate industries.

Figure 31
Retirement Eligibility by Industry

Industry	Percent of Expected Retirements
Manufacturing	32.0%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	14.9%
Construction	7.4%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.1%
Healthcare & Social Services	7.1%
Utilities	6.7%
Educational Services	6.3%
Public Administration	5.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	3.3%
Professional & Technical Services	2.6%
Accommodation & Food Services	2.1%
Information	1.9%
Personal Services	1.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	0.4%
Agriculture & Mining	0.4%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	*
Management	*



*Insufficient data reported

Figure 32
Retirement Eligibility within Each Occupational Category

Occupational Category	Percent Affected by Retirements
Production	18.2%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	16.0%
Management	13.0%
Office & Administrative Support	11.2%
Transportation & Material Moving	10.8%
Sales & Related	5.6%
Education, Training & Library	4.8%
Business & Financial Operations	4.1%
Construction & Extraction	3.3%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	3.3%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	2.6%
Legal	1.9%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	1.1%
Healthcare Support	1.1%
Personal Care & Service	0.6%
Architecture & Engineering	0.4%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Related	0.4%
Community & Social Science	0.4%
Computer & Mathematical Science	0.4%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	0.4%
Life, Physical & Social Science	0.4%
Protective Service	*

* Insufficient data reported

Figure 32 shows the percent of eligible retirement within each occupational category. Production positions represent the fifth largest occupational category among current vacancies (7.0%) (**Figure 2**, page 2) and is the largest occupational category among jobs potentially affected by retiring workers. While architecture & engineering occupations make up 14.0 percent of the region’s current vacancies (**Figure 2**, page 2), they are not significantly affected by workers potentially retiring (0.4%). The occupational categories that will potentially be the most affected are: production; installation, maintenance & repair; management; and office & administrative support.

Nearly two-thirds (65.5%) of employers indicated that they are engaged in retiree retention efforts. **Figure 33** details employer responses regarding the strategies used to retain retirees. Over two-fifths (40.2%) of the employers are offering retirees flexible work schedules; followed by increased wages and/or bonuses; additional training to upgrade their skills; a change in duties/responsibilities; more recognition for work done; benefits to part-time employees; benefits to retirees; seasonal work schedules; allowing telecommuting/working from home; and other efforts.

Figure 33
Retiree Retention Efforts by Employers

Efforts to Keep/Attract Retirees	Percent
Flexible work schedules	40.2%
Increase wages and/or bonuses	35.4%
Offer additional training	23.2%
Change in duties/responsibilities	22.0%
More recognition	18.3%
Benefits to part-time employees	12.2%
Benefits to retirees	7.3%
Seasonal work schedules	7.3%
Telecommuting/working from home	4.9%
Other	3.7%

Figure 34
How Companies Plan to Replace Those Who Retire

Replacing Vacancies Due to Retirements	Percent
Combination of hiring outside workers and promoting from within the company	47.7%
Hire workers from outside of the company	31.8%
Not currently planning to fill these positions	14.0%
Promote employees from within the company	6.5%

Figure 34 shows how companies plan to fill vacant positions left behind from those who have retired. Of those who reported, 47.7 percent plan to use a combination of hiring outside workers along with promoting from within the company, 31.8 percent plan only to hire workers from outside the company, 14.0 percent do not currently plan on filling these positions and 6.5 percent plan on only promoting from within the company.

Conclusion

The Workforce Needs Assessment gives us an idea of the demand for workers within an industry. The survey shows a relative high demand in the manufacturing, construction and accommodation & food services industries. There are an estimated 277 vacancies in the manufacturing industry and a further 148 in the construction industry. Together these two industries account for over two-fifths (42.0%) of all vacancies in the North Central Iowa Alliance area.

By occupational category the survey shows a relative high demand in the transportation & material moving, architecture & engineering and construction & extraction occupational categories. Transportation & material moving occupations account for an estimated 161 vacant positions and architecture & engineering accounts for another 142 positions. Transportation & material moving and architecture & engineering occupations together make up almost one-third (29.9%) of the area's vacancies.

Over four-fifths (80.4%) of the current job vacancies reported require an education level at or below an associates degree. Less than one-fifth (19.6%) of current job vacancies require an undergraduate degree or higher. Almost one-third (30.4%) of the current job vacancies reported require no experience, while 46.6 percent require some experience totaling two years or less.

Positions opening due to retirement have slightly lower educational requirements. Less than one-fifth (14.3%) of positions to be vacated due to retirement require an undergraduate degree or higher. Conversely, these positions will require more experience than other vacancies. Less than one-fifth (14.3%) of jobs opening due to retirement require no experience and 57.2 percent require some experience totaling two years or less.

As a result of this survey, the region will be able to identify the gap between the existing workforce, the skills it possesses and the existing needs of industries. Identifying this gap will allow Iowa to assist community colleges, universities and other educational institutions in preparing upcoming workers with the necessary and appropriate skills to make them successful in the workforce.

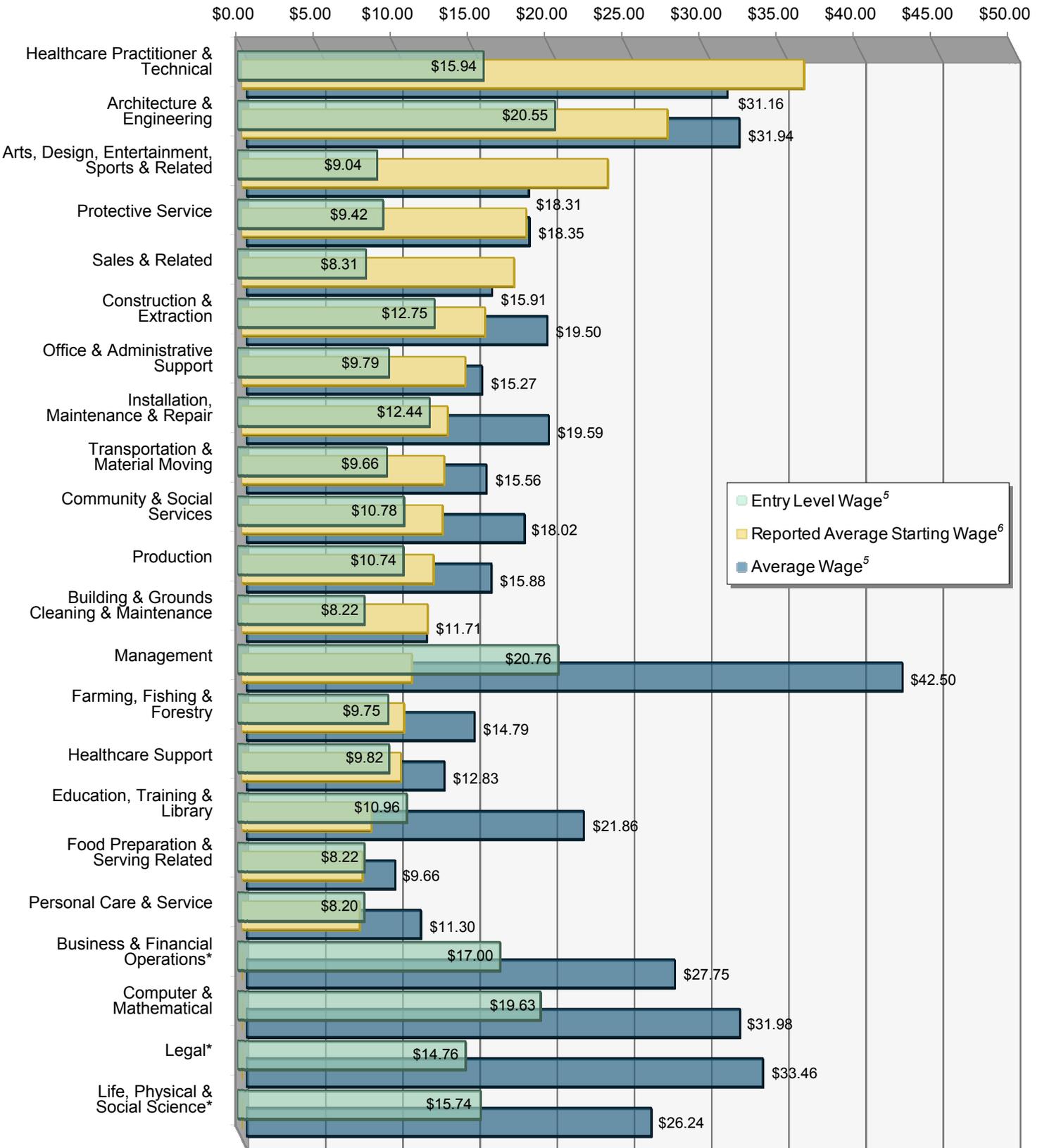
This Workforce Needs Assessment Survey was conducted by Iowa Workforce Development's Regional Research & Analysis Bureau in partnership with the Iowa Association of Business and Industry.

**Figure 35
Estimated Reported Vacancies**

Job Title	SOC Code	Estimated Vacancies
Engineers, All Other	17-2199	142
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	35-3021	103
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	53-3032	103
Painters, Construction and Maintenance	47-2141	103
Correctional Officers and Jailers	33-3012	52
Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	51-4081	40
Nursing Assistants	31-1014	40
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	49-3023	19
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	35-1012	19
Home Health Aides	31-1011	19
Bus Drivers, Transit and Intercity	53-3021	14
Carpenters	47-2031	14
Childcare Workers	39-9011	14
Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch and Aquacultural Animals	45-2093	14
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, and Buffing Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and	51-4033	14
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	49-9041	14
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	53-7062	14
Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers	53-3033	14
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	49-9071	14
Managers, All Other	11-9199	14
Medical Assistants	31-9092	14
Production Workers, All Other	51-9199	14
Automotive Body and Related Repairers	49-3021	6
Bill and Account Collectors	43-3011	6
Billing and Posting Clerks and Machine Operators	43-3021	6
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	43-3031	6
Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers	47-2051	6
Cleaners of Vehicles and Equipment	53-7061	6
Commercial and Industrial Designers	27-1021	6
Computer Occupations, All Other	15-1199	6
Construction Laborers	47-2061	6
Driver/Sales Workers	53-3031	6
Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians	49-3041	6
First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	49-1011	6
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	51-1011	6
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	41-1011	6
General and Operations Managers	11-1021	6
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	49-9021	6
Helpers--Painters, Paperhangers, Plasterers, and Stucco Masons	47-3014	6
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	37-2012	6
Mental Health Counselors	21-1014	6
Nurse Practitioners	29-1171	6
Occupational Health and Safety Technicians	29-9012	6
Office Clerks, General	43-9061	6
Pesticide Handlers, Sprayers, and Applicators, Vegetation	37-3012	6
Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers	43-5031	6
Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists	21-1092	6
Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks	43-5061	6
Retail Salespersons	41-2031	6
Sailors and Marine Oilers	53-5011	6
Sales Representatives, Services, All Other	41-3099	6
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	41-4012	6
Sheet Metal Workers	47-2211	6
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	43-5081	6
Teacher Assistants	25-9041	6
Technical Writers	27-3042	6
Estimated Total Vacancies		1,012

* Totals may vary due to rounding methods

Average Regional Starting Wages Compared to Statewide Entry Level & Statewide Average Hourly Wages



*Insufficient data reported

⁵Entry Level Wage and Average Wage taken from 2012 Iowa Wage Survey.

⁶Average Starting Wage is taken from the Workforce Needs Assessment survey data.



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