

Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) Program
2004 Major Accomplishments

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- **Program Continues its Rapid Growth.** The Local Employment Dynamics (LED) partnership now has 36 state partners plus the District of Columbia, covering over 82 percent of the nation's population. Thirty (30) of these partners are supplying data regularly for the production of Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI).
- **Steering Committee Bylaws were Established and Members Elected.** In anticipation of the needs of a rapidly growing program, bylaws for a LED Steering Committee were established and members from six states were elected to the Steering Committee in February 2004 to provide continuing guidance and direction.
- **Production and Quality Assurance Teams Began Operation.** A team dedicated to the timely production of the QWI was formed and started operation in the first quarter of 2004; our pledge is to process all quarterly data received from the states on time in 12 weeks or less. Two economists have also been assigned to perform independent quality assurance reviews at each major stage of the production process.
- **Options to Disseminate and Extract QWI Data are Expanding.** LED continues to make its data easier to access and extract by increasing the options to the state partners. In addition to the standard use of DVDs and secured Hypertext Transfer Protocol in the Internet, a customized prototype using MultiDimensional DataBase (MDDb) has been developed for data extraction by the LED partners. Means to integrate with several application structures¹ are being studied.
- **New Applications were Introduced and More are Under Development.** Industry details and drill down capabilities have been added to the flagship application QWI Online; two new easy-to-use applications – Top Industries and Local Workforce – were also implemented. A major mapping pilot involving 12 states was started in July to build an infrastructure for the origin-destination travel patterns of workers.
- **New Research into Confidentiality Protection is Initiated.** LEHD will continue to work with the Cornell University and the research community under a new grant from the National Science Foundation to research and develop new disclosure avoidance methods to protect confidentiality without limiting the availability of data.

¹ Including but not limited to ALMIS, Data Ferret, Advance Query System, and Beyond 20/20.

- **Official Website was Launched and Expanded.** The first official LEHD website was launched and linked to the Census Bureau in February 2004, and an enhanced version with two new applications was released in December 2004. The new website was recognized by EconData.net as Site of the Month during January 2005. LED will continue to make innovative use of its website to inform and communicate. For example, new LED applications are being “skinned”² to the state partners’ respective websites.
- **Training and Outreach to Workforce Investment Boards (WIB) Begins.** Executive Directors and staff from WIBs were trained to use the QWI, as were staffs from the LMI shops. WIBs also participated with their LMI agencies in the mapping pilot workshop. Outreach to all WIBs continues through blast emails and letters and through workshops in conjunction with the National Association of Workforce Boards 2005 Forum in March 2005.
- **Profiles of Older Workers were Published.** Twelve states have supplied the information for a Profile of Older Workers in their states, and ten have been published. The reports have been quite successful in generating media coverage about older workers.
- **Sloan/Census/State Project Nears Completion.** The joint project between the Sloan industry centers, the Census Bureau and participating states is nearing completion. Detailed industry studies of the performance of firms, the career paths of workers and the inequality of worker earnings have been conducted for the financial services, retail food, software, semiconductor, and trucking industries. Preliminary versions of the findings have been reported at National Bureau of Economic Research and American Economic Association meetings in 2004 and in January 2005. A book manuscript to present the findings in an accessible manner is in first draft and a number of prestigious academic presses have expressed interest in publishing this book. Brief summary reports to the states will be written and distributed in coming year to highlight the main findings from this unique project.

² “Skinning” refers to a programming technique to place LED applications seamlessly under the state partner’s website and banner.