

# DES MOINES, IOWA LABORSHED ANALYSIS



A STUDY OF WORKFORCE CHARACTERISTICS

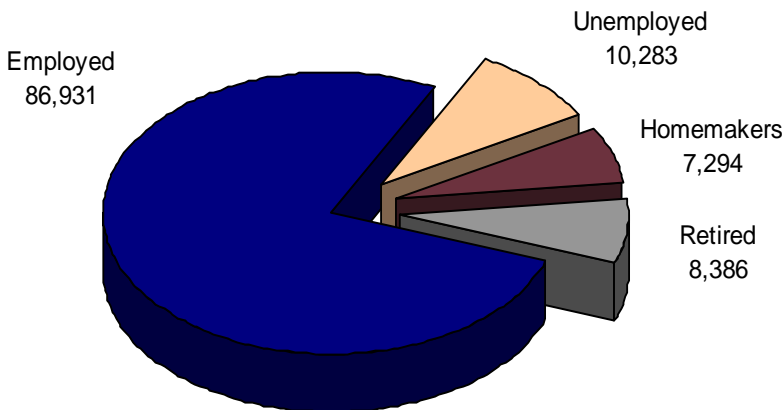
*RELEASED APRIL 2008*

# 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 Des Moines 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. See *contact information on back*.

**Total Potential Labor Force: 420,785 (entire Laborshed Area)**

**Estimated Number of Individuals Very Likely or Somewhat Likely to Change or Accept Employment (112,894)**



## Quick Facts:

*(Employed - willing to change employment)*

- 13.8% are working multiple jobs;
- Currently working an average of 43 hours per week;
- Average age is 43 years old;
- 34.2% currently working in professional, paraprofessional, or technical occupations followed by 18.4% in production, construction, or material handling occupations;
- Most frequently identified job search sources:
  - Internet
    - [www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)
    - [www.careerbuilder.com](http://www.careerbuilder.com)
  - Local/Regional newspapers
    - The Des Moines Register
    - Ames Daily Tribune
  - Networking through friends, family, or acquaintances
  - Local Iowa Workforce Development Centers

## Underemployment:

The underemployed are composed of individuals who are working fewer than 35 hours per week but desire more hours; 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.

- 1.4% Inadequate hours (1,217 people)
- 1.2% Low income (1,043 people)
- 2.3% Mismatch of skills (1,999 people)
- 4.6% Total estimated underemployment (3,999 people)

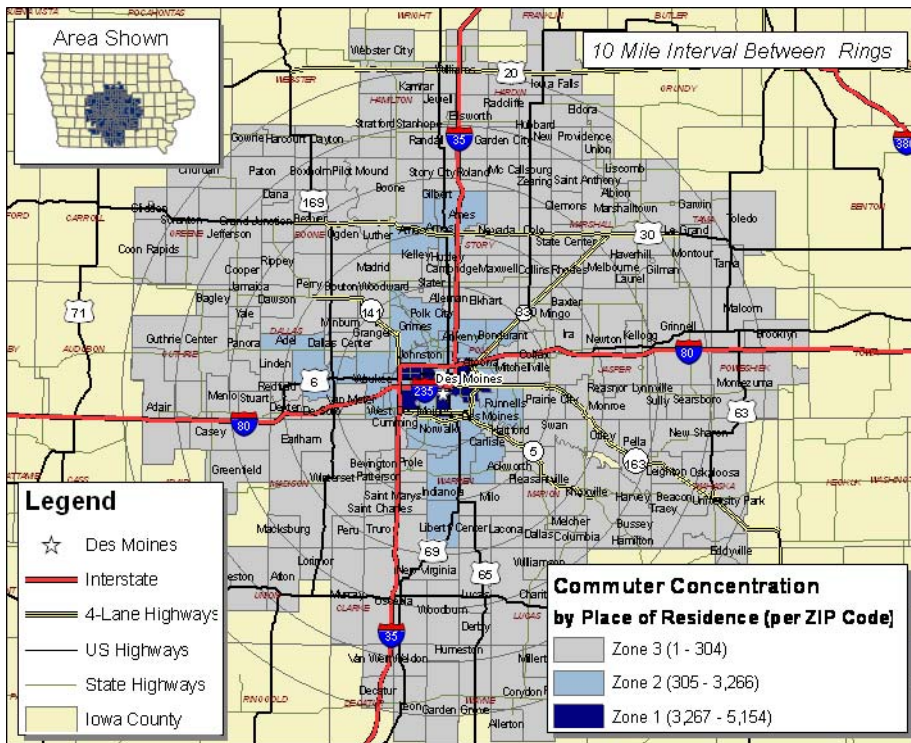
*Individuals may be underemployed for more than one reason; but are only counted once for total estimated underemployment.*

## Industrial Classification of the Employed

Industry	% of Laborshed	# of Employed
Education	16.0%	56,217
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	15.1%	53,055
Wholesale & Retail Trade	11.6%	40,757
Health Care & Social Services	10.7%	37,595
Manufacturing	9.7%	34,081
Public Administration & Government	8.8%	30,919
Professional Services	7.3%	25,649
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	6.4%	22,487
Construction	5.7%	20,027
Personal Services	4.3%	15,108
Agriculture	2.9%	10,189
Entertainment & Recreation	1.1%	3,865

Survey respondents from the Des Moines Laborshed area were asked to identify the industry in which they are currently working. The largest concentration of workers are employed in the education industry as shown in the table at left.

# Des Moines Commuting Area



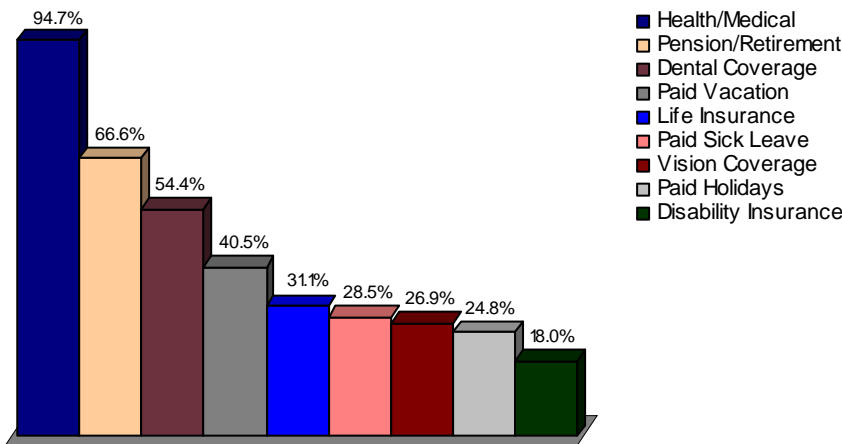
## Commuting Statistics

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

Those who are willing to change employment in the Des Moines Laborshed area are willing to commute an average of 22 miles one way for employment opportunities.



## 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 (72.0%) of respondents are currently sharing the cost of premiums with the employer. However, 21.9 percent of the employers in the area pay the entire cost of insurance premiums as a benefit for their employees.

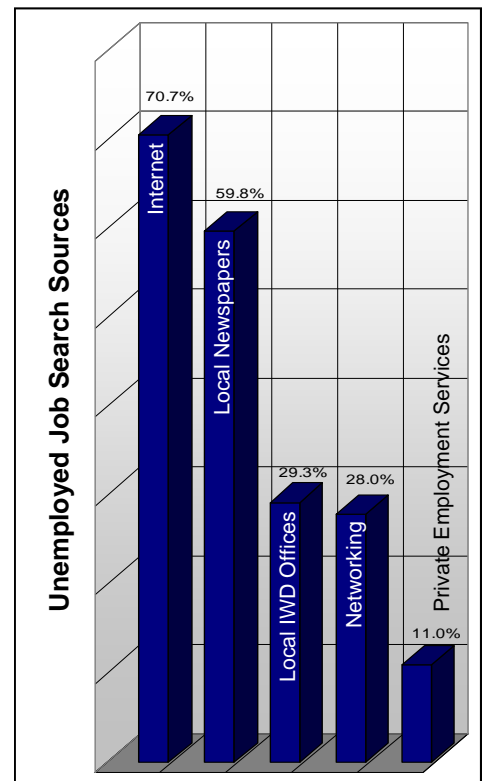
## Education and Median Wage Characteristics by Industry

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	73.3%	15.6%	42.2%	\$50,000	\$11.00
Construction	51.5%	8.4%	17.9%	\$52,000	\$19.00
Manufacturing	53.3%	11.5%	14.8%	\$55,500	\$15.00
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	65.0%	15.4%	24.8%	\$55,000	\$17.02
Wholesale & Retail Trade	63.6%	12.9%	21.3%	\$49,000	\$10.00
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	81.1%	15.0%	45.3%	\$55,000	\$14.32
Health Care & Social Services	80.9%	22.7%	38.1%	\$49,000	\$15.63
Personal Services	68.4%	7.9%	31.6%	\$30,000	\$10.00
Entertainment & Recreation	72.7%	13.6%	36.4%	\$45,000	\$8.00
Professional Services	77.0%	11.9%	43.0%	\$50,000	\$12.00
Public Administration & Government	85.0%	11.8%	54.3%	\$54,500	\$20.50
Education	92.8%	7.9%	72.1%	\$40,000	\$12.75

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

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

- An estimated 10,283 unemployed individuals are willing to accept employment;
- Average age is 42 years old;
- Education:
  - 56.4% have an education beyond high school
  - 2.4% are trade certified
  - 15.3% have an associate degree
  - 11.8% have an undergraduate degree
  - 10.6% have an postgraduate/professional degree
- Estimated wage range to attract the upper 66-75% qualified hourly wage applicants is \$11.00 to \$13.00/hr. with a median of the lowest wage of \$10.00/hr.;
- Willing to commute an average of 20 miles one way for the right opportunity;
- 51.8% expressed interest in seasonal and 63.5% in temporary employment opportunities;
- 42.4% are interested in working varied shifts (2nd, 3rd & split);
- Would prefer to enter employment that offers the following benefits:
  - Health/medical insurance
  - Pension/retirement options
  - Dental coverage
  - Paid vacation
  - Vision coverage
  - Paid sick leave
  - Paid holidays
- 67.2% of the unemployed are seeking employment offers where the employer/employee share the cost of medical insurance premiums.



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For more information regarding the Des Moines Laborshed Study, contact:

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