



State of Arkansas
Department of
WORKFORCESERVICES

www.dws.arkansas.gov

Post Office Box 2981 • Little Rock, AR 72203-2981



June 26, 2012

Senator Mary Anne Salmon, Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
Arkansas Senate
State Capitol Room 320
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Representative Tommy Lee Baker, Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
Arkansas House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 350
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Senator Salmon and Representative Baker:

Arkansas Code Annotated 15-4-2206 states that the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board shall present a report quarterly to the Legislative Council concerning the progress, performance and compliance with the Federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, and the Arkansas Workforce Investment Act of 1999. On behalf of the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board, I submit the attached progress report for the quarter October – December 2011.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact Cindy Varner, Assistant Director for Employment Assistance, at 501-371-1028 or by email at cindy.varner@arkansas.gov.

Sincerely,

Artee Williams



ARKANSAS **WORKFORCE** CENTERSSM

WORKFORCE RESULTS

**October 1 – December 31, 2011
Second Quarter, Program Year 2011**

WORKFORCE RESULTS

The Department of Workforce Services provides this overview of performance for the period ending December 31, 2011. The programs highlighted herein reinforce the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board's and DWS' commitment to helping people find jobs and to connect employers to workers. The goal of the workforce investment system is to improve the quality of the workforce and to strengthen the state's competitiveness in the 21st century global economy. In general, this overview presents program outcomes and results for the most recent quarter compared to the prior year(s) results. A glossary of performance measures is included in this overview.

Submitted By:

Ms. Diane Hilburn, Chair
Arkansas Workforce Investment Board

Mr. Tom Anderson, Vice-Chair
Arkansas Workforce Investment Board

Mr. Artee Williams, Director
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

Ms. Cindy Varner, Assistant Director for Employment Assistance
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services



Prepared By:

Ms. Kristen Rhodes, RES & WIA Program Monitor
Arkansas Department of Workforce Services

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Arkansas Department of Workforce Services



WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) - ADULT PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Adult services encompass workforce investment programs and initiatives that help thousands of adult workers receive workforce preparation assistance. These programs also help employers find the workers they need. They promote and facilitate an integrated public workforce system, offering a full array of workforce education, training and information services. Adult programs serve the broadest range of individuals, including Unemployment Insurance claimants, veterans, people with disabilities, dislocated workers, migrant and seasonal farm workers, Indian and Native Americans, workers 55 or older and incumbent workers.

PERFORMANCE

The actual rate is listed in the blue bar and the goal is listed in the white bar.

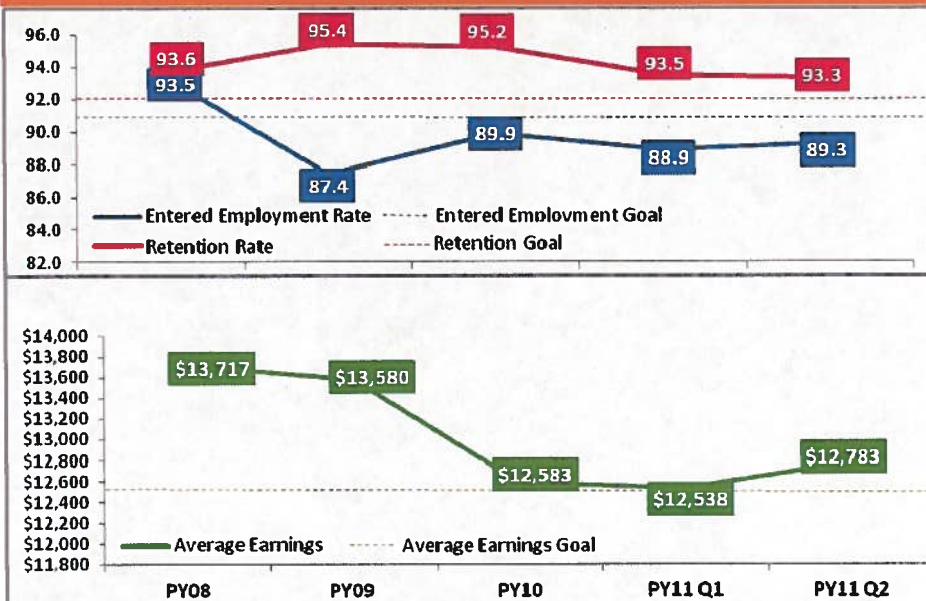
PERFORMANCE MEASURE	PY08	PY09	PY10	PY11 Q1	PY11 Q2
Entered Employment Rate	93.5	87.4	89.9	88.9	89.3
Entered Employment Goal	91.0	91.0	91.0	91.0	91.0
Retention Rate	93.6	95.4	95.2	93.5	93.3
Retention Goal	92.0	92.0	92.0	92.0	92.0
Average Earnings	\$13,717	\$13,580	\$12,583	\$12,538	\$12,783
Average Earnings Goal	\$12,530	\$12,530	\$12,530	\$12,530	\$12,530

* DOL considers the state as having met the goal if 80% of the negotiated level is met, these are indicated in green.

** Of those adult participants who are employed in the first, second, and third quarters after the exit quarter: average 6 month earnings, for 2nd and 3rd quarters after exit.

NOTE: Detailed information on formula for performance measures is in the glossary of this report.

PERFORMANCE PROGRESS



ANALYSIS

The program continues to maintain, above the negotiated goal, performance in both the Retention Rate and Average Earnings measures. The current quarter earnings outcome of \$12,783 is surpassing the goal and is slightly increased over the previous quarter of \$12,538 where we saw a four year decline since PY 09.

The PY11 second quarter Entered Employment Rate (EER) 89.3% continues to be below the goal of 91.0%. However, the EER is slightly higher than the previous quarter of 88.9% but is still within the 80% Department of Labor requirement.

HIGHLIGHTS/INNOVATIONS

The Governor's Dislocated Worker Task Force deployed a Mobile Resource Unit to support the Fall Veteran's Outreach event in Helena. This activity focused on providing insight to veteran's benefits and updates in the healthcare system. Veterans were assisted with claims processing and screenings. A Mobile Unit also supported the Northwest Arkansas Job Fair in Rogers and a Unit was on-site at Verizon Arena in North Little Rock to assist job seekers attending the 2011 Career Expo sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services.

TOP OCCUPATIONS AFTER EXIT

Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations

- Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
- Registered Nurses
- Nursing Aides, Orderlies and Attendants

Transportation and Material Moving Occupations

- Truck Drivers, Heavy Tractor Trailer

Education

- Teacher Assistants
- Pre-school Teachers, Except Special Education
- Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) - DISLOCATED WORKER

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Dislocated Worker Program aims to quickly reemploy laid-off workers and to enhance their employability and earnings by increasing occupational skills. Arkansas' Dislocated Worker Program emphasizes informed customer choice, system performance, and continuous improvement. Arkansas Workforce Centers provide access to core, intensive, and training services to individuals and groups of dislocated workers so that they may obtain and retain employment at a self-sufficient level.

PERFORMANCE

The actual rate is listed in the blue bar, and the goal is listed in the white bar.

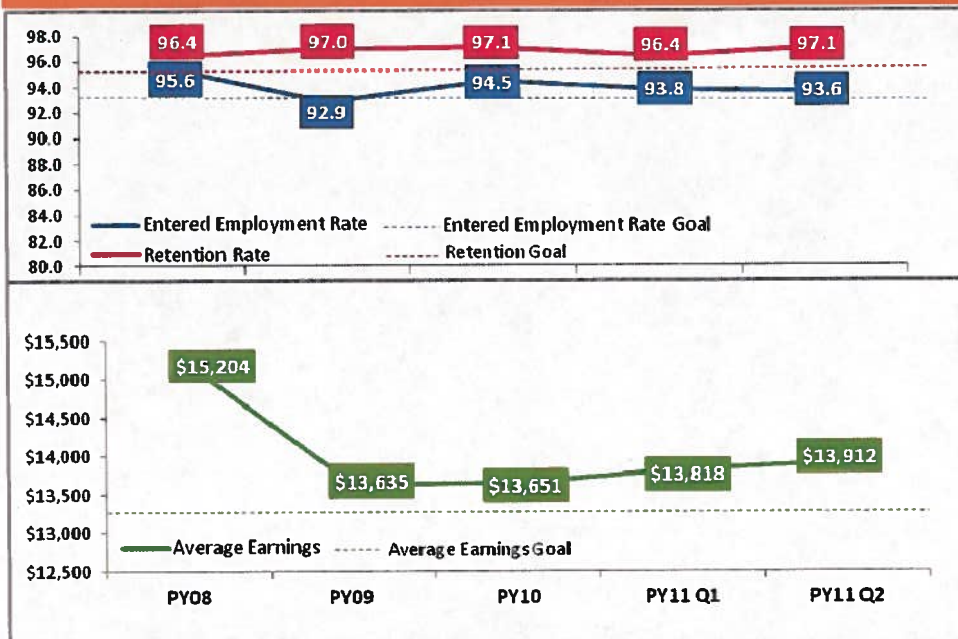
PERFORMANCE MEASURE	PY08	PY09	PY10	PY11 Q1	PY11 Q2
Entered Employment Rate	95.6	92.9	94.5	93.8	93.6
Entered Employment Goal	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5	93.5
Retention Rate	96.4	97.0	97.1	96.4	97.1
Retention Goal	95.5	95.5	95.5	95.5	95.5
Average Earnings	\$15,204	\$13,635	\$13,651	\$13,818	\$13,912
Average Earnings Goal	\$13,200	\$13,200	\$13,200	\$13,200	\$13,200

* DOL considers the state as having met the goal if 80% of the negotiated level is met; these are indicated in green.

** Of those participants who are employed in the first, second, and third quarters after the exit quarter: average 6 month earnings, for 2nd and 3rd quarters after exit.

NOTE: Detailed information on formula for performance measures is in the glossary of this report.

PERFORMANCE PROGRESS



ANALYSIS

The Workforce Investment Act Dislocated Worker program assisted 277 participants with training in the second quarter of PY 11.

The program continues to maintain above negotiated goal performance in all three measures.

Both the Retention Rate at 97.1% and the Average earnings at \$13,912 have increased over the previous quarter. The Entered Employment Rate decreased slightly from the previous quarter by 0.2%.

HIGHLIGHTS/INNOVATIONS

A Planning Meeting was conducted on behalf of dislocated workers from Westark Diversified in Van Buren and a Worker Assistance Workshop was held on behalf of dislocated workers from Penske in Fort Smith. Both companies are impacted by the pending Whirlpool closure. A Mobile Resource Unit was on-site at the Fox 16 Holiday Job Fair in Little Rock and a Mobile Unit also supported the Agency Training Summit.

TOP OCCUPATIONS AFTER EXIT

Transportation and Material Moving Occupations

- Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor Trailer

Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations

- Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
- Nursing Assistants
- Registered Nurses

Office and Administrative Support Occupations

- Office Clerks, General
- Billing, Cost and Rate Clerks
- Bookkeeping, Accounting and Auditing Clerks

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) - YOUTH 14-21 PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The WIA Youth program provides employment and education services to eligible low-income youth, ages 14-21, who face barriers to employment. The program serves youth with disabilities and low literacy rates as well as others who may require additional assistance to complete an educational program or obtain a job.

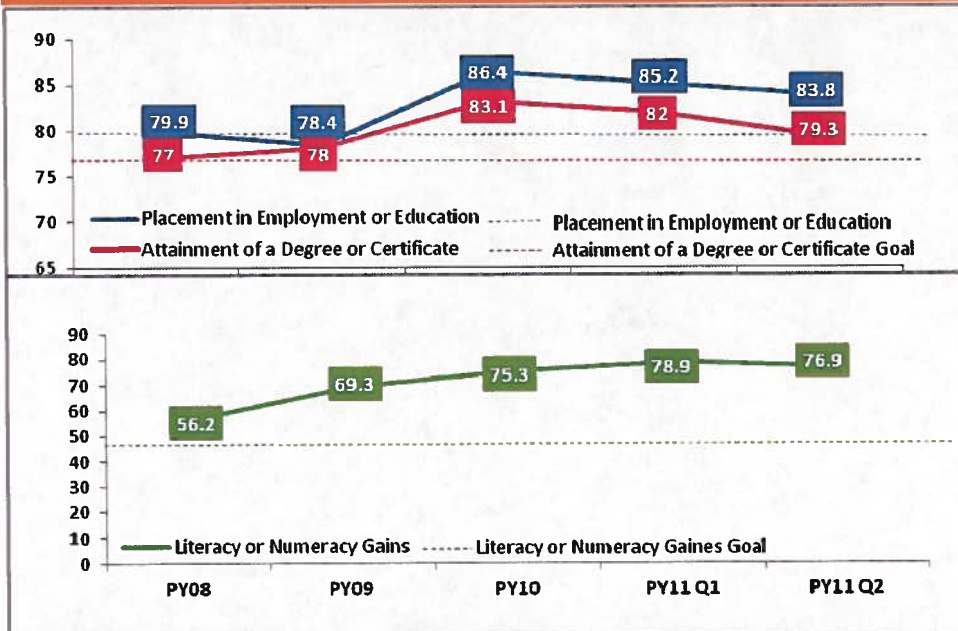
PERFORMANCE

The actual rate is listed in the blue bar, and the goal is listed in the white bar.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	PY08	PY09	PY10	PY11 Q1	PY11 Q2
Placement in Employment or Education	79.9	78.4	86.4	85.2	83.8
Placement in Employment or Education Goal	79.7	79.7	79.7	79.7	79.7
Attainment of a Degree or Certificate	77	78	83.1	82	79.3
Attainment of a Degree or Certificate Goal	76.9	76.9	76.9	76.9	76.9
Literacy or Numeracy Gains	56.2	69.3	75.3	78.9	76.9
Literacy/Numeracy Gains Goal	48	48	48	48	48

* DOL considers the state as having met the goal if 80% of the negotiated level is met, these are indicated in green.

PERFORMANCE PROGRESS



ANALYSIS

The Workforce Investment Act Youth Program served 955 participants in the current quarter.

The youth program continues to exceed negotiated goals in all three measures. However, the Placement in Employment or Education measure has been decreasing since PY 10 from 86.4% to the current 83.8%.

The Attainment of a Degree or Certificate measure has also decreased from 83.1% in PY 10 to the current measure of 79.3%.

HIGHLIGHTS/INNOVATIONS

The Northwest Arkansas Youth Program has worked with Youth Strategies of Springdale for several years. Youth Strategies is a non-profit that works empowering potential in young people and recruits from the Springdale Alternative Learning Environment. This partnership provides participants with opportunities they otherwise might not have been able to receive. In order to sustain the program, social enterprise models have been developed which include the Community Bike Shop and the Green Team Landscaping. Beside the actual labor activities, youth manage the business. This opportunity to grow and learn will take our youth of promise to meaningful employment as adults.

TOP OCCUPATIONS AFTER EXIT

Sales and Related Occupations

- Cashiers
- Retail Salespersons

Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations

- Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers
- Cooks, Fast Food
- Waiters and Waitresses

Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations

- Nursing Assistants

Office and Administrative Support Occupations

- Stock Clerks, Sales Floor

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) - NATIONAL EMERGENCY GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

National Emergency Grants (NEGs) are intended to temporarily expand the service capacity of WIA training and employment programs at the state and local levels by providing funding assistance in response to large, unexpected economic events which cause significant job losses. Such events include business closures, mass layoffs, realignment and closure of military installations and certain natural disasters declared eligible for public assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provided additional resources for services to dislocated workers through NEGs.

PERFORMANCE

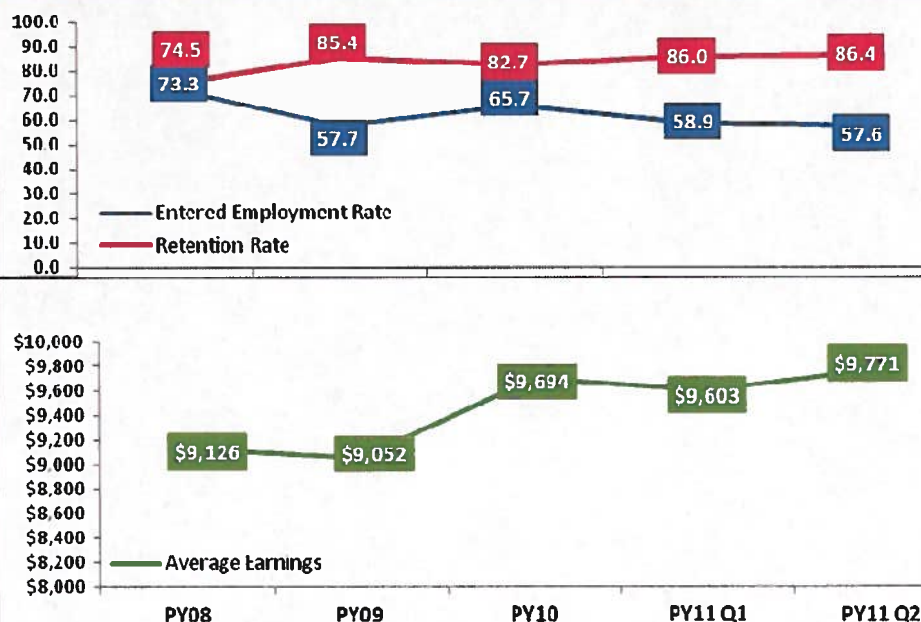
The actual rate is listed in the blue bar, and the goal is listed in the white bar.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	PY08	PY09	PY10	PY11 Q1	PY11 Q2
Entered Employment Rate	73.3	57.7	65.7	58.9	57.6
Entered Employment Goal	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Retention Rate	74.5	85.4	82.7	86.0	86.4
Retention Goal	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Average Earnings	\$9,126	\$9,052	\$9,694	\$9,603	\$9,771
Average Earnings Goal	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

* Of those participants who are employed in the first, second, and third quarters after the exit quarter: average 6 month earnings, for 2nd and 3rd quarters after exit.

NOTE: Detailed information on formula for performance measures is in the glossary of this report.

PERFORMANCE PROGRESS



ANALYSIS

NEG AR-18 assisted with the December 2009 floods and is active from 2/4/2010—3/31/2012. Of the twenty four counties eligible to receive disaster relief assistance, five participated in the Central and Southwest Local Workforce Investment Areas.

NEG AR-19 assisted with the severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding in April 2011. There are thirty six counties participating in clean-up activities.

HIGHLIGHTS/INNOVATIONS

There are two active disaster National Emergency Grants for the second quarter of program year 2011. The grant period for NEG AR-18 is from 02/4/2010 through 03/31/2012. To date, eleven (11) participants have obtained full time employment.

The State was awarded a disaster NEG in April 2011, NEG AR-19 for \$3,758,327. Participant and expenditure rates are on target. The state was granted an extension of the grant period through June 30, 2012.

TOP OCCUPATIONS AFTER EXIT

Arkansas has only received disaster National Emergency Grants. Temporary workers are hired to work for county offices providing assistance with clean-up efforts. Those that have acquired permanent employment are employed by the counties.

Temporary workers are only employed for up to six months or 1,040 hours.

COMMON PERFORMANCE MEASURES

(Used by Workforce Investment Act, Wagner-Peyser, Trade Adjustment Assistance, Senior Community Service Employment Program, Prisoner Reentry Initiative, and National Farmworker Jobs Program)

ADULT MEASURES	
<i>Entered Employment</i>	Of those who are not employed at the date of participation: the number of adult participants who are employed in the first quarter after the exit quarter divided by the number of adult participants who exit during the quarter.
<i>Employment Retention</i>	Of those who are employed in the first quarter after the exit quarter: the number of adult participants who are employed in both the second and third quarters after the exit quarter divided by the number of adult participants who exit during the quarter.
<i>Average Earnings</i>	Of those adult participants who are employed in the first, second, and third quarters after the exit quarter: total earnings in the second quarter plus the total earnings in the third quarter after the exit quarter divided by the number of adult participants who exit during the quarter.
YOUTH MEASURES	
<i>Attainment of a Degree or Certificate</i>	Of those enrolled in education (at the date of participation or at any point during the program): the number of youth participants who attain a diploma, GED, or certificate by the end of the third quarter after the exit quarter divided by the number of youth participants who exit during the quarter.
<i>Literacy and Numeracy Gains</i>	Of those out-of-school youth who are basic skills deficient: the number of youth participants who increase one or more educational functioning levels divided by the number of youth participants who have completed a year in the program (i.e., one year from the date of first youth program service) plus the number of youth participants who exit before completing a year in the program.
<i>Placement in Employment or Education</i>	Of those who are not in postsecondary education or employment (including the military) at the date of participation: the number of youth participants who are in employment (including the military) or enrolled in postsecondary education and/or advanced training/occupational skills training in the first quarter after the exit quarter divided by the number of youth participants who exit during the quarter.