

Southeast Iowa Great River Region Laborshed Analysis



A Study of Workforce Characteristics
Released April 2009

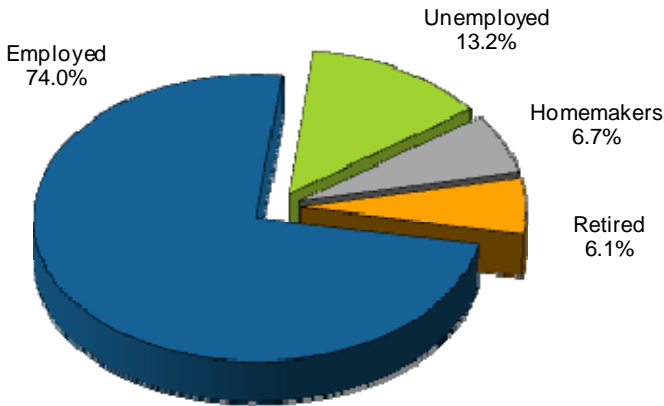
Laborshed Studies

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 Great River Region commuting area, information from local and state sources were plotted for geographic analysis. The information contained within this summary is based on aggregate data from the Burlington, Fort Madison, Keokuk, Mount Pleasant, and Wapello Laborshed studies. Customized industry specific and community specific information is available upon request.

Occupations and Employment Status in the Great River Region:

Survey respondents from the Great River Region were asked to identify their current job title and the industry in which they are currently working. The largest concentration of workers are employed within the production; office & administrative support; and management occupational categories. The top industries are manufacturing, health care & social services, education, and wholesale & retail trade.

The chart below shows the percentage of respondents by employment status within the Great River Region.



Occupational Category	% within Region
Production	15.7%
Office & Administrative Support	13.0%
Management	12.8%
Education, Training, & Library	8.9%
Sales & Related	6.6%
Transportation & Material Moving	5.8%
Health Care Practitioner & Technical	5.2%
Health Care Support	4.7%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	3.7%
Construction & Extraction	3.7%
Business & Financial Operations	3.3%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	3.0%
Building/Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	2.7%
Personal Care & Service	2.6%
Architecture & Engineering	1.6%
Community & Social Services	1.5%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Related	1.5%
Protective Service	1.1%
Life, Physical, & Social Science	1.0%
Legal	0.5%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	0.5%
Computer & Mathematical Science	0.4%
Military Specific	0.2%

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.

- 2.2% Inadequate hours
- 1.6% Mismatch of skills
- 2.6% Low income
- 5.6% Total estimated underemployment

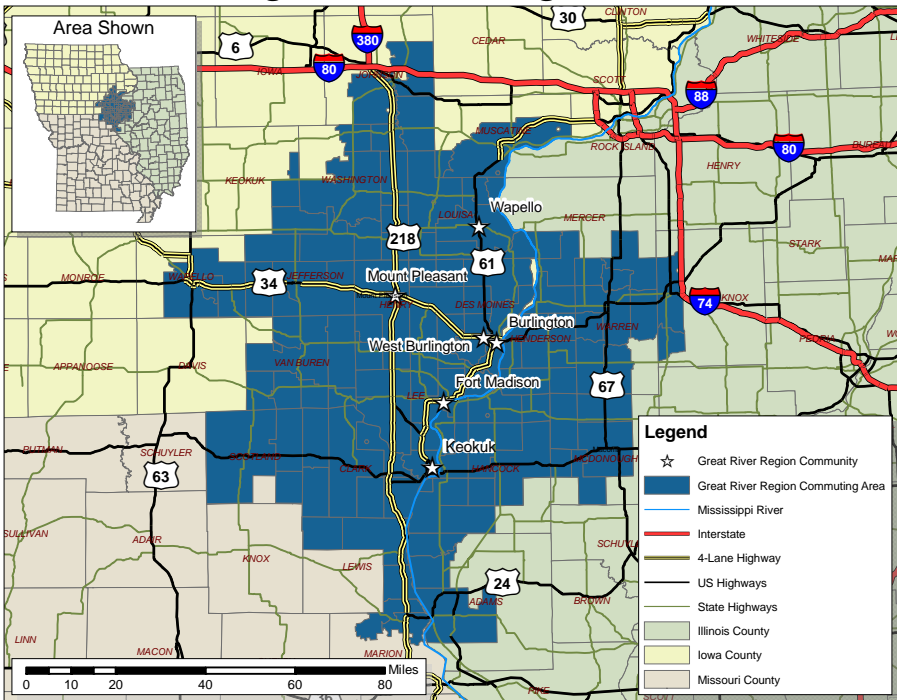
Individuals may be underemployed for more than one reason; but are only counted once for total estimated underemployment.

Industrial Classification of the Employed:

Industry	% of Laborshed
Manufacturing	19.0%
Health Care & Social Services	15.9%
Education	13.9%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	13.8%
Other (Military, Nonprofit, etc.)	6.1%
Agriculture	6.0%
Public Administration & Government	5.8%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	4.5%
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	4.2%
Construction	3.9%
Professional Services	3.2%
Personal Services	2.5%
Entertainment & Recreation	1.2%

Survey respondents from the Great River Region commuting area were asked to identify the industry in which they are currently working. The largest concentration of workers are employed in manufacturing as shown in the table at left.

Great River Region Commuting Area



Those who are willing to change or accept employment in the Great River Region are willing to commute an average of 25 miles one way for employment opportunities.

Quick Facts:

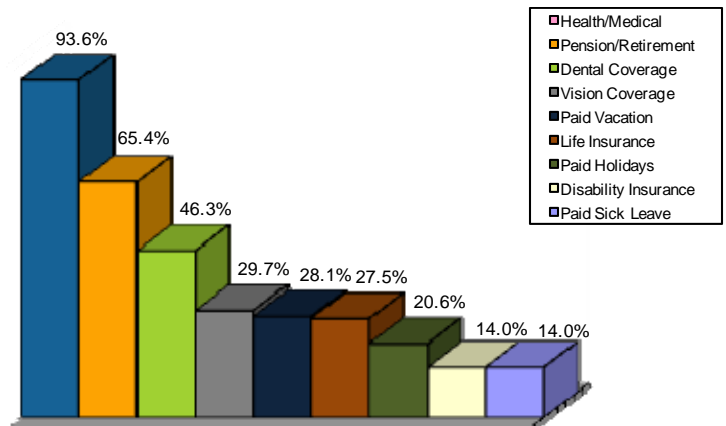
(Employed - willing to change employment)

- 11.1% are working multiple jobs;
- Currently working an average of 41 hours per week;
- Average age is 43 years old;
- 33.3% currently working in the production, construction, & material handling occupational category followed by 22.3% in the professional, paraprofessional, & technical occupational category;
- Most frequently identified job search sources:
 - Internet
 - www.monster.com
 - www.iowaworkforce.org
 - www.careerbuilder.com
 - Local/Regional newspapers
The Hawk Eye - Burlington
 - Local Iowa Workforce Development Centers
 - Networking through friends, family, or acquaintances

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 majority (76.3%) of respondents state they are currently sharing the cost of health insurance premiums with their employer. However, 15.7 percent indicate their employer pays the entire cost of insurance premiums.

Benefits Currently Offered



Education and Current Median Wage Characteristics by Industry

Industry	Education				Median Wages	
	Some Level Beyond High School	Associate Degree	Undergraduate Degree	Postgraduate Degree	Salary Wages (per year)	Non-Salary Wages (per hour)
Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining	55.7%	12.9%	24.3%	2.9%	\$46,750	\$12.25
Construction	47.2%	7.5%	5.7%	1.9%	\$38,000	\$15.41
Manufacturing	47.7%	18.3%	8.7%	2.5%	\$46,000	\$14.22
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	46.4%	10.7%	12.5%	3.6%	\$67,000	\$15.00
Wholesale & Retail Trade	57.1%	7.3%	11.3%	1.1%	\$33,000	\$8.50
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	73.5%	14.3%	18.3%	12.2%	\$52,000	\$10.13
Health Care & Social Services	72.0%	25.4%	16.9%	3.7%	\$43,500	\$11.75
Personal Services	71.9%	12.5%	15.6%	3.1%	\$17,500	\$8.50
Entertainment & Recreation	45.5%	13.6%	9.1%	*	\$30,500	\$8.69
Professional Services	59.2%	16.3%	8.2%	4.1%	*	\$11.00
Public Administration & Government	82.0%	21.3%	24.6%	6.6%	\$45,000	\$16.39
Education	86.8%	5.3%	36.1%	30.9%	\$45,000	\$9.82

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

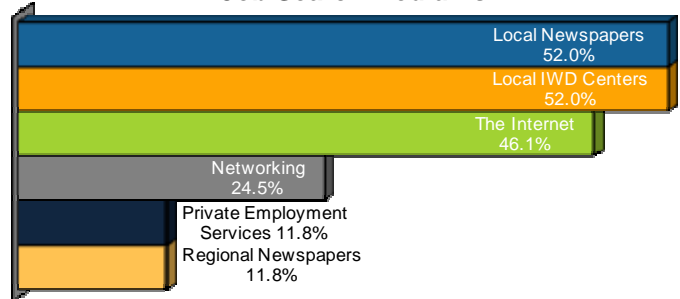
*Insufficient survey data/refused

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

- 13.2% of the region are unemployed;
- 70.0% have become unemployed within the last year;
- Average age is 44 years old;
- 47.6% are men and 52.4% women;
- Education:
 - 50.5% have some post high school education
 - 5.8% are trade certified
 - 11.7% have an associate degree
 - 6.8% have an undergraduate degree
 - 1.9% have a postgraduate degree
- Estimated wage range to attract the upper 66 to 75% qualified hourly wage applicants is \$10.00 to \$12.00/hr. with a median lowest wage considered of \$10.00/hr.;
- 69.9% expressed interest in both seasonal as well as temporary employment opportunities;
- 48.5% are interested in working varied shifts (2nd, 3rd & split);
- Willing to commute an average of 22 miles one way for the right opportunity;
- 66.7% of the unemployed indicated they are seeking employment offers where the employer/employee share the cost of medical insurance premiums.

- Would prefer to enter employment that offers the following benefits:
 - Health/medical insurance
 - Dental coverage
 - Pension/retirement options
 - Vision coverage
 - Life insurance
 - Disability insurance
 - Prescription drug coverage
 - Paid vacation
 - Paid holidays
 - Paid sick leave
 - Tuition assistance/reimbursement
 - Paid time off

Job Search Mediums



Sponsored in Partnership:

Access Energy
Alliant Energy
Atmos Energy
Eastern Iowa REC
Grow Greater Burlington
Iowa Department of Economic Development
Iowa Telecom

Lee County Economic Development Group, Inc
Louisa Communications
Louisa Development Group
MidAmerican Energy
Mount Pleasant Area Development Commission
REC Eastern Iowa
Rathbun Rural Water Association (RRWA)
Southeast Iowa Great River Region



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For more information regarding the Great River Regional Laborshed Study, contact:

Greater Burlington Partnership
610 North 4th Street, Suite 200
Burlington, Iowa 52601
Phone: 319-752-6365 / 800-827-4837
Fax: 319-752-6454
www.growburlington.com

Great River Region Partnership
610 North 4th Street, Suite 220
Burlington, Iowa 52601
Phone: 319-752-2731, ext. 5385
www.greatriverregion.com

Louisa Development Group
12635 County Rd G56, P.O. Box 171
Wapello, IA 52653
Phone: 319-527-5182 / 888-894-2932
Fax: 319-729-2131
Email: ldg@louisacomm.net
www.louisadevelopmentgroup.org

Lee County Economic Development Group, Inc.
110 Main Street, Ste. 200
Montrose, IA 52639
Phone: 319-463-5599
Fax: 319-463-5597
Email: info@lcedg.com
www.lcedg.com

Mount Pleasant Area Development Commission
124 South Main Street, P.O. Box 109
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641
Phone: 319-385-3101 / 800-436-7619
Fax: 319-385-3012
Email: mpaca@mountpleasantiowa.org
www.mountpleasantiowa.org