

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON BLS QCEW PROGRAM DATA

Data Source/Methodology:

ETA utilized annual QCEW employment and wage data for private industry by state for calendar years 2002 through 2004, which is readily available on the BLS website at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/> under the heading "Publications and Other Documentation." Calendar year data on average earnings for the overall workforce were used as a point of comparison to the actual average earnings achieved by the reporting cohorts included on state Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Annual Report submissions during Program Years (PY) 2002 through 2004, and the state quarterly reports submitted for the WIA and Wagner-Peyser programs for the quarter ending September 30, 2005. For instance, the exit cohorts for the employment retention and earnings measures on the state quarterly reports ending September 30, 2005, covered the periods July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004. With the exception of one quarter for the April-June 2004 cohort, the actual six-month earnings quarters (i.e., 2nd and 3rd post-program quarters) for these exit cohorts covered the calendar year 2004 period. Similar coverage based on a calendar year period exists for exit cohorts reported on prior WIA Annual Reports.

To estimate the six-month average earnings using the QCEW data, we applied the following methodology:

$$\frac{((\text{TOTAL ANNUAL EARNINGS} \times 1,000) \text{ divided by ANNUAL AVG. EMPLOYMENT})}{2}$$

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All published BLS data are final. Detail may not add to totals due to rounding.

Data Coverage/Limitations:

Employment data under the QCEW program represent the number of covered workers who worked during, or received pay for, the pay period including the 12th of the month. Excluded are members of the armed forces, the self-employed, proprietors, domestic workers, unpaid family workers, and railroad workers covered by the railroad unemployment insurance system. Wages represent total compensation paid during the calendar quarter, regardless of when services were performed. Included in wages are pay for vacation and other paid leave, bonuses, stock options, tips, the cash value of meals and lodging, and in some States, contributions to deferred compensation plans (such as 401(k) plans). The QCEW program does provide partial information on agricultural industries and employees in private households.

BLS publishes data from the QCEW program every quarter in the County Employment and Wages press release. This is usually released 6 to 7 months after the end of the quarter. In addition, QCEW publishes the annual bulletin Employment and Wages, Annual Averages about 10 months after the end of the year.