

State Employment Projections Program

Organizations: The Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, in collaboration with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and State Projections Consortium through the Projections Managing Partnership (PMP).

- “The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) administers federal government job training and worker dislocation programs, federal grants to states for public employment service programs, and unemployment insurance benefits. These services are primarily provided through state and local workforce development systems.”¹
- The State Projections Consortium is the network of projection analysts of all the State Workforce Agencies (SWAs).
- The Projections Managing Partnership (PMP) serves as a voluntary governing board, re-organized in 2012 to provide leadership and vision for the Projections Consortium. The PMP includes nine state LMI directors serving rotating three-year terms. The PMP also includes ex officio state analysts providing technical expertise.

Purpose and Uses: According to ETA, state and local:

[e]mployment projections are the most frequently-requested type of workforce statistic other than the unemployment rate. Projections are used for career counseling; to plan employment, education and training programs; for economic development and other state or regional planning; and as supporting documentation to apply for Federal grants, among many other purposes.²

Data Elements Relevant to Postsecondary Education and Workforce Development:

According to ETA:

ETA requires the states to produce both long-term and short-term projections, but the states are not required to publish the short-term projections (which may be available upon request from the state). The states vary in the level of industry or occupational detail provided, how localities are defined, and the electronic formats used to present projections (e.g., Web view, pdf, MS Excel, etc.). . . .

All states publish statewide long-term (usually 10 year) industry and occupational projections, and the vast majority of these also publish local projections. More than three-fifths of the states publish short-term (usually 2 year) industry and occupational projections, but no more than a fourth publish local short-term projections.³

Many states provide projections with information on education and training.

¹ ETA website, http://www.doleta.gov/etainfo/eta_default.cfm.

² ETA, [“Internet Links for State and Local Employment Projections,”](#) webpage.

³ *Ibid.*

States that publish projections*	Long-term INDUSTRY		Short-term INDUSTRY		Long-term OCCUPATIONAL		Short-term OCCUPATIONAL	
	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local
Number of states	52	38	33	12	52	45	34	13
Percentage of all states	100%	73%	63%	23%	100%	87%	65%	25%

*"States" as defined here include the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and thus total 52.⁴

History and Status: BLS began producing national employment projections in 1960 and has continued on a 2-year cycle since the early 1970s. With support from BLS, SWAs started producing state and local projections in the mid-1970s. While both national and state long-term projections are created every two years and cover a ten year time-span, only the states produce short-term projections, generally covering a two-year period.

ETA's State Employment Projections Program evolved from an informal process in the 1970s to a more formal effort today. ETA provides each state with a Workforce Information Grant to States (WIGS) that, among other requirements, mandates the production of long- and short-term projections.⁵

Type of industry and occupational projection	Required, encouraged and other allowable activities
Statewide <i>long-term</i>	10-year projections required in odd-numbered calendar years
Statewide <i>short-term</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-year projections submission required each year; ETA also encourages states to disseminate their short-term projections • State may <i>also</i> produce longer projections (e.g., 3, 4 or 5 years). ETA discourages 1-year projections, which date quickly. ETA also encourages states to disseminate these projections.
Sub-state <i>long-term</i>	10-year projections required in even-numbered calendar years
Sub-state <i>short-term</i>	Optional: an allowable and encouraged, but not required, activity

The PMP manage an annual ETA consortium grant designed to provide shared information technologies as well as ensure consistent production of state and local employment projections. The PMP has also been charged with standardizing methodologies, offering technical assistance, and

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ ETA, ["Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 23-13: Program Year \(PY\) 2014 Workforce Information Grants to States \(WIGS\): Policy and Program Guidance, Application Instructions, and Formula Allocations,"](#) April 28, 2014.

determining the timetable for preparing deliverables.⁶ The PMP Board oversees and manages the state and local projections process through four committees: (1) training, (2) product and process innovation, (3) information technology, (4) communications.

Methodology: Both national and state projections follow the same methodology, except the factors included in the state projections are weighted to reflect the industry and employment conditions in a given state.⁷

Data Products and Tools: Short- and long-term projections for each state are available through [Projections Central](#), hosted by the State Projections Consortium, and ETA's [Internet Links for State and Local Employment Projections](#).

Annual Cost: ETA's 2014 budget for WIGS is \$32,000,000.⁸ ETA also contributes between \$500,000 and \$1 million annually to support the work of the PMP.

⁶ The technical website for the State Projections Consortium is <http://dev.projectionscentral.com/index.asp>.

⁷ For details on the national projections methodology, see BLS, *Handbook of Methods*, "[Chapter 13: Employment Projections](#)."

⁸ In addition to the employment projections, each WIGS funds an annual statewide economic analysis and the maintenance of the state workforce information database.