

WRIGHT COUNTY LABOR SUMMARY REPORT

FOR

**MERAMEC REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP
LABOR STUDY**



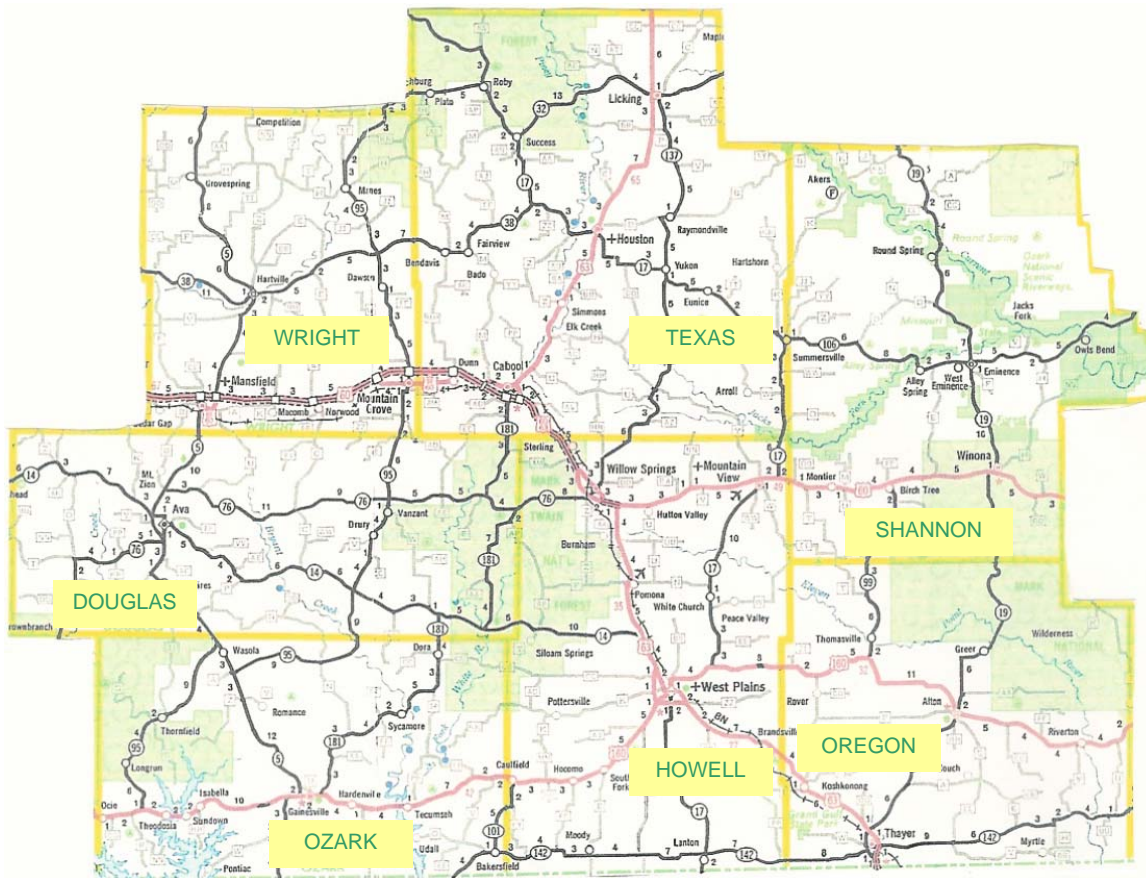
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SOUTH CENTRAL OZARKS AREA LABOR MARKET

Seven County People Power Population/Labor Force



	<u>2000 Population</u>	<u>2001 Civilian Labor Force</u>
Douglas	13,084	5,389
Howell	37,238	16,777
Oregon	10,344	4,217
Ozark	9,542	4,283
Shannon	8,324	3,806
Texas	23,003	9,671
Wright	<u>17,955</u>	<u>7,056</u>
7 County Total	119,490	51,199

LABOR SUMMARY WRIGHT COUNTY, MISSOURI

During the latter half of 2001 and early 2002 the Meramec Regional Partnership (MRP) and Growth Services conducted a comprehensive Labor Study in South Central Missouri consisting of 20 counties located primarily in three Regional Planning Commission areas. Wright County is located in the South Central Ozark Area Labor Market and many of the tables and graphs attached to this summary report may include regional as well as county information. The Labor Study has been developed for all of the MRP partners as listed on the MRP page of this report and as a resource for local workforce and economic development.

A. INTRODUCTION

The Labor Summary Report for Wright County will include information specific to Wright County and the region. It is derived from the findings of the five components of the labor study which are:

- Demographic Findings
- Wage and Benefit Findings
- Employer Findings
- Workforce Findings
- Education/Training Findings

B. GENERAL FINDINGS

The findings from all five components of the labor study indicate an ample supply of “available workforce” to support major new employers in Wright County. Wright County and the surrounding counties have the necessary labor pool within reasonable commuting distance to support the employment levels of most employers. In addition, there is a large seasonal workforce, which supports the tourism and recreation industry that would be available to employers with the right employment options of year-round work and benefit packages.

C. KEY LABOR STUDY FINDINGS

- The population of Wright County is 17,955 with a civilian labor force of 7,056.
- The population in Wright County increased 7.1% from 1990 to 2000, this compares to the growth of the South Central Ozark Region of 11.4% and the State of Missouri of 9.3%.
- Wright County’s 2000 age distribution for ages 35 to 64 is 37.1% of the population, which is lower than the South Central Ozark Region at 39.0% and the State of Missouri at 38.2%.
- Wright County’s 2000 ethnic origin is represented by 97.6% white compared to the State of Missouri at 84.9% and the United States at 74.1%.
- The average per capita income in 1999 for Wright County is \$14,410 and compares to the State of Missouri with \$26,376. Wright County ranks 109th of all counties in Missouri
- Wright County has an average wage rate of \$13.05 per hour for the 62 position descriptions surveyed compared with the same 62 positions for the State of Missouri at \$16.42. This is a 21% competitive advantage over the State of Missouri and a 25% advantage over the national average.
- Using the same methodology, this is a 25% competitive advantage over St. Louis and 40% over San Jose, California.

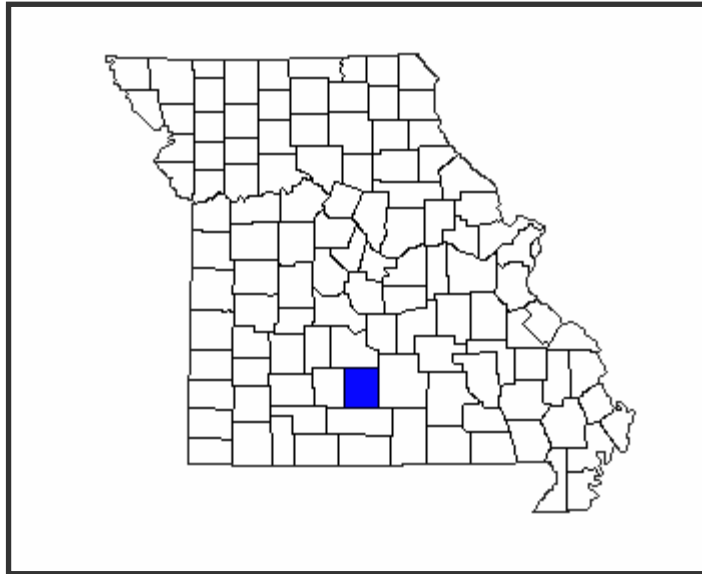
- The published government information shows an even greater advantage in the all industry average weekly wage, with the Wright County area at \$374 per week and the State of Missouri at \$604. This is a 38% competitive advantage over the State of Missouri and relates relatively close to the average hourly wage comparisons if adjustments were made to the one year old state and national data.
- In the area of Benefits, 94.4% of the South Central Ozark Region's employers provide vacation leave, 72.2% provide some type of health insurance coverage, and 57.4% have a retirement plan.
- Six of the ten top skill training needs of employers are in the "Performance Improvement" category, also known by some as "Soft Skills." Of the 54 Skill Needs, the top six selected by the 98 employers are: Team Building (40.8%), Leadership Skills (41.8%), Communications (41.8%), Time Management (39.8%), Customer Service (38.8%), and Interpersonal Skills (30.6%). (See Attachment C, Employer Skills Needs, Executive Summary)
- The SCO area labor market has an available workforce of 28,583. Of that number it is estimated 4,672 are not employed and 7,910 are employed but are looking for new employment, while 16,001 would consider changing jobs for the right employment options.
- The 19 non-high school Education/Training providers surveyed ranked Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Internet, Databases, and Computer Beginner Basics as the top five skills available for enrollment of the 47 listed for selection in the survey. (See Attachment, Education Skills Providers, Executive Summary)

D. CLOSING REMARKS

The County Labor Summary is only a brief overview of the information available from the labor study. For those interested in specific subject areas, the various component reports can be requested from your regional office as listed on the partnership page. The Labor Study can be used as a tool by local communities seeking information for programs and strategies to upgrade the skills and quality, as well as the availability of workers in their labor pool.

WRIGHT COUNTY

County Fact Sheet



County Seat: Hartville
Square Miles: 682
Date Organized: February 28, 1841
County Residents that work outside county: (1990) 24.5%
County Employees that live outside county: (1990) 23.3%
Average Travel Time to Workplace: (1990) 19.7 minutes
Cities: Graff, Grovespring, Hartville, Macomb, Mansfield, Mountain Grove, Norwood
Top Employers: Schools, Trailers-Equipment & Parts-Manufacturers, Restaurants, Department Stores, Convenience Stores, Wood Products Nec (Manufacturers), Pillows-Manufacturers, Grocers-Retail, Churches, Home Health Service
Area Vocational Technical Schools and Assigned School Districts: *LEBANON TECHNOLOGY AND CAREER CENTER*, (Hartville R-II), *OZARKS MOUNTAIN TECHNICAL CENTER*, (Norwood R-I), (Mountain Grove R-III), (Mansfield R-IV)
Community College/In District: Ozarks Technical Community College

Labor Force Information				
Annual Averages for Wright County				
Year	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
2002-Jan	6,688	5,966	722	10.8%
2001	7,065	6,408	657	9.3%
2000	7,000	6,568	432	6.2%
1999	7,121	6,747	374	5.3%
1998	6,970	6,486	484	6.9%
1997	7,461	6,751	710	9.5%

Per capita Income Data Wright County		
Year	Per Capita Income	Per Capita Income Rank*
1998	14,023	109
1997	13,465	114
1996	12,550	113
1995	12,564	108
1994	12,374	108

*Ranked among all Missouri counties

Source: MO Dept. of Economic Development
 MO Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education