



PRESS RELEASE

Regional Workforce Study Results Revealed

Winchester area offers large quality workforce

WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA (April 11, 2007) According to a recently released Regional Workforce Study, Winchester-Frederick County possesses a labor force that is one of quality and quantity. As far as quantity, the report showed approximately 20,000 individuals available for existing and new businesses. The education level of the workforce clearly shows the quality aspect with over 10,000 of the available workforce having at least a bachelor's degree.

The study, which was completed by the Center for Survey Research at the University of Virginia, provides the Winchester-Frederick County Economic Development Commission (EDC) with an update to the 2003 Regional Workforce Study. Information was gathered through the use of telephone surveys. The study area mirrored the workforce draw for Winchester and Frederick County employers. The localities included were Clarke, Warren, Frederick and Shenandoah counties & Winchester City in Virginia and Berkeley, Hampshire and Morgan counties in West Virginia.

"Current, accurate and reliable information remains a critical mainstay in the success or failure of a community's economic development effort. This report allows the EDC to respond very precisely to new or existing business requests on the available workforce," said Patrick Barker, CEcD, EDC executive director.

Key points of interest from the study include:

- About 17 percent of the region's residents moved here within the past five years.
- More than 50% of recent movers came from states other than Virginia, Maryland or DC (38.6%) or the Northern Virginia area (18.8%).
- Of the region's population aged 16 or older, 72.2% are in the labor force and 73.4% of workers are employed by private-sector companies.
- More than 26% of workers report an affiliation with construction or manufacturing.

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- More than 40% of existing workers are looking for additional training.
- More than 85% of workers are at least somewhat satisfied with their job.
- More than 40% of the respondents have at least a bachelors degree or higher.
- Winchester-Frederick County remains a place to live and work with more than 70% of its working population remaining in the area for work.
- More than 20,000 of the population currently working are actively seeking another job.
- Commuters to Northern Virginia are starting to understand more clearly the cost of their commute and what actual pay cut they could take to work closer to home.

"This data, along with other highlights of the study, will be used in the EDC's future marketing initiatives to help attract and retain our high-tech target business sectors. We plan to use the information to better demonstrate the types of skill sets available in Winchester-Frederick County's workforce," said Wendy May, EDC's Marketing Coordinator.

The Center for Survey Research (CSR) at the University of Virginia is a full-service academic survey research facility. The Center specializes in studies for local government and state agencies. As a full-service facility, CSR offers customized project design, professional interviewing, data collection, data analysis and report preparation.

The report's executive summary is available at the EDC's website, www.winva.com. For a more detailed copy of the report and/or specific inquiries about the results, please call the EDC at 540.665.0973.

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