

Cherokee County, Iowa

Laborshed Analysis

Cherokee County

Lyon County

O'Brien County

Osceola County

Plymouth County

Sioux County



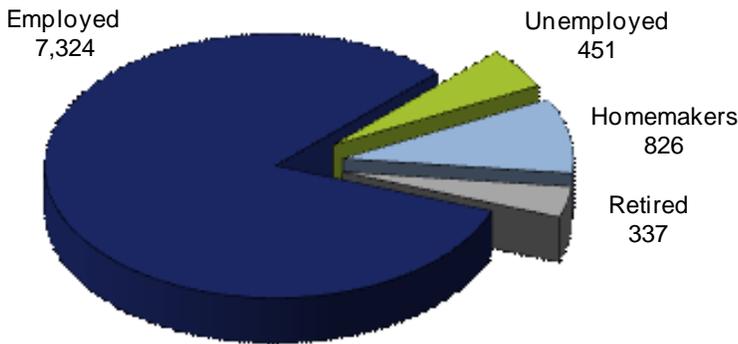
A Study of
Workforce Characteristics
Released March 2010

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 Cherokee County Laborshed area, local employers supplied the ZIP code listings of where each of their employees reside. This Laborshed analysis addresses underemployment, the availability and willingness of current and prospective employees to change employment within the workforce, current and desired occupations, wages, hours worked, and distance willing to commute to work. *See contact information on back.*

Total Potential Labor Force: 70,049 (entire Laborshed Area)

Estimated Number of Individuals Very Likely or Somewhat Likely to Change or Accept Employment (8,938)



Quick Facts:

(Employed - willing to change employment)

- 16.9% are working multiple jobs;
- Currently working an average of 41 hours per week;
- Average age is 44 years old;
- 27.0% currently working within the professional, paraprofessional, & technical occupational category followed by 24.7% within the production, construction, & material handling occupational category;
- Most frequently identified job search sources:
 - Internet
 - www.iowaworkforce.org
 - www.google.com
 - www.monster.com
 - Local/Regional newspapers
 - *Sioux City Journal*
 - *Cherokee Chronicle Times*
 - *The Des Moines Register*
 - Local Iowa Workforce Development Centers
 - Networking through friends, family, and acquaintances

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.

- 2.7% Inadequate hours (198 people)
- 3.0% Mismatch of skills (220 people)
- 2.7% Low income (198 people)
- 6.7% Total estimated underemployment (491 people)

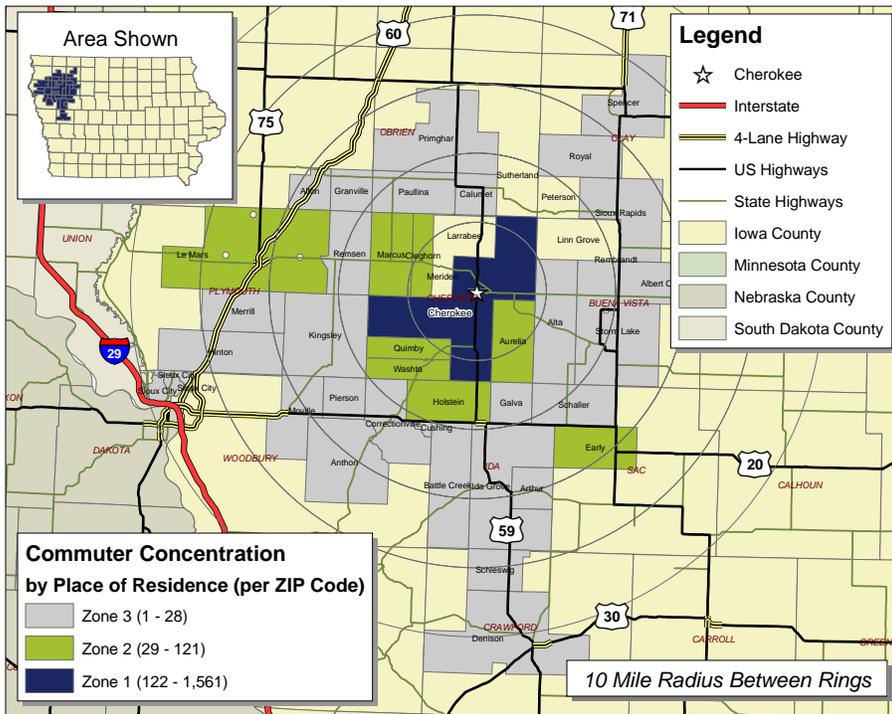
Individuals may be underemployed for more than one reason; but are only counted once for total estimated underemployment.

Industrial Classification of the Employed

Industry	% of Laborshed	# of Employed
Manufacturing	18.2%	10,416
Health Care & Social Services	18.2%	10,416
Wholesale & Retail Trade	13.7%	7,841
Education	10.6%	6,066
Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining	8.8%	5,036
Personal Services	5.8%	3,319
Public Administration, Government	5.5%	3,148
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	4.9%	2,804
Transportation, Communications, & Public Utilities	4.6%	2,633
Construction	4.0%	2,289
Professional Services	4.0%	2,289
Entertainment & Recreation	0.9%	515
Other (Military, Nonprofit, etc.)	0.9%	515

Survey respondents from the Cherokee County Laborshed area were asked to identify the industry in which they are currently working. The largest concentration of workers are employed in the manufacturing and health care & social services industries as shown in the table at left.

Cherokee County Commuting Area



Commuting Statistics

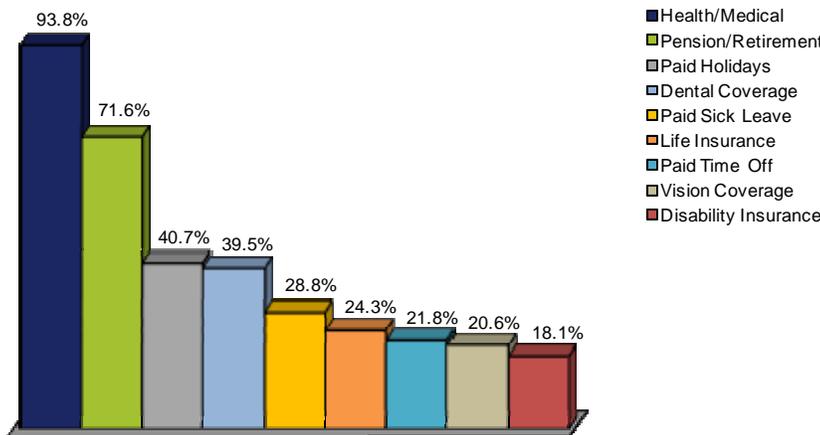
The map at the left represents commuting patterns into Cherokee County with the concentration per ZIP code represented in the legend.

Those who are willing to change employment in the Cherokee County Laborshed area are willing to commute an average of 24 miles one way for employment opportunities.



AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Benefits Currently Offered



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 top nine benefits are shown.

The majority (75.1%) of respondents state they are currently sharing the cost of health/medical insurance premiums with their employer. However, 16.0 percent indicate their employer pays the entire cost of insurance premiums.

Education and Median Wage Characteristics by Industry

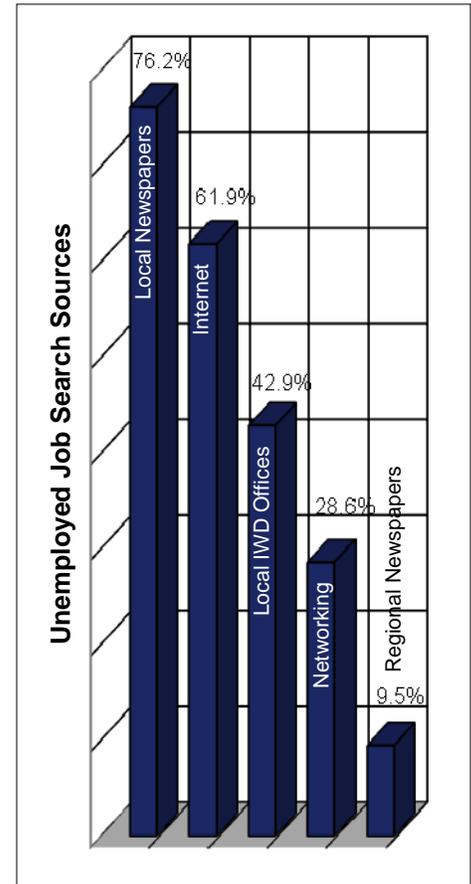
Industry	Education			Median Wages	
	Some Level Beyond High School	Associate Degree	Undergraduate Degree or Higher	Salary Wages (per year)	Non Salary Wages (per hour)
Agriculture	56.2%	6.3%	25.0%	\$67,500	\$13.00
Construction	41.2%	*	5.9%	\$76,500	\$13.00
Manufacturing	42.6%	8.8%	20.6%	\$54,000	\$13.00
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	71.4%	4.8%	28.6%	*	\$10.91
Wholesale & Retail Trade	53.6%	7.1%	10.7%	\$38,000	\$9.20
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	72.2%	11.1%	38.9%	\$47,000	*
Health Care & Social Services	69.2%	23.1%	26.9%	\$50,000	\$12.88
Personal Services	45.5%	9.1%	13.6%	\$42,500	\$7.25
Entertainment & Recreation	57.1%	14.3%	28.6%	*	\$7.50
Professional Services	57.9%	15.8%	15.9%	\$52,500	\$11.75
Public Administration & Government	72.7%	9.1%	22.7%	\$44,500	\$20.00
Education	89.5%	5.3%	63.2%	\$39,000	\$10.20

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

*Insufficient survey data/refused

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

- An estimated 451 unemployed individuals are willing to accept employment;
- Average age is 43 years old;
- 61.9% are male; 38.1% are female;
- Education:
 - 66.7% have an education beyond high school
 - 14.3% are trade certified
 - 19.0% have an associate degree
 - 9.5% have an undergraduate degree
 - 4.8% have a postgraduate/professional degree
- Estimated wage range to attract the upper 66-75% qualified hourly wage applicants is \$12.00 to \$12.13/hr. with a median of the lowest wage of \$11.00;
- Willing to commute an average of 27 miles one way for the right opportunity;
- 52.4% expressed interest in seasonal and in temporary employment opportunities;
- 66.7% are interested in working varied shifts (2nd, 3rd & split);
- Would prefer to enter employment that offers the following benefits:
 - Pension/retirement options
 - Health/medical insurance
 - Paid vacation
 - Dental coverage
 - Paid holidays
 - Disability insurance
 - Paid sick leave
 - Life insurance
 - Paid time off
- 60.0% of the unemployed indicated they are seeking employment offers where the employer/employee share the cost of medical insurance premiums.



Sponsored in Partnership with



For more information regarding the Cherokee County Laborshed Analysis, contact:

Cherokee Area Economic Development Corporation
418 W. Cedar Street, Suite B
Cherokee, IA 51012
Phone: 712-225-5739 / 800-325-5739
Fax: 712-225-1991
E-mail: caedc@evertek.net
www.cherokeeia.com