

## Storing CPI Data within WID

by Kim Hughes, Nebraska Department of Labor

**T**he ARC Structure Committee has been busy in the details of the Workforce Information Database (WID). One topic recently reviewed stemmed from a question posed to the group



regarding how to define and store Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for a specific region. This would involve the geog table and possibly the subgeog table. The CPI, CPI Type, and CPI Source tables are not affected by the area definition. Seems simple, right? In-depth research by committee members revealed that the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) CPI segment defines some 45 different geographies ranging from national, multi-state regions, and select population levels within regions along with some select metro areas. The current solution for some states on the committee was to store their region's CPI data defined within geog table as statewide data using their own stfips and an area type of 01 for 'statewide'. The structure group decided that showing data as statewide data that is in truth a multi-state area is probably not the best practice and so

decided to find a best practice to pass along.

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## Demographics Data - now more than ever

by Steve Rosenow, National Crosswalk Service Center

Not since the baby boomer generation began entering the labor force in the 1950s have we seen as significant an impact of demographics on the labor market as we're seeing today. Now as that group leaves the labor force in ever increasing numbers, we're faced with finding replacements for them. This has led to a growing appetite for population demographics by economists, planners, economic developers and education officials.



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In response to this need, the Analyst Resource Center (ARC) began development of a Workforce Information Database table designed to house this information in late 2006. The goal was to develop a comprehensive set of demographic variables that is timely and represents as much geographic detail as possible. The ARC Database Structure Committee, in cooperation with the National Crosswalk Service Center developed a prototype

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# Meeting Notes

## ARC Meeting Highlights

*San Diego, California – June 2010*

**ETA Update** - Samuel Wright provided an update via teleconference. A primary focus for the ETA this year is getting people into green jobs. WID will be used to help get people into these markets as they are seen as the future of job growth.

**ARC Update** -Bob Cottrel provided an ARC Update. The ARC is seeking more LMI Directors and upper management participation from states.

**NCSC Update** - Steve Rosenow provided an update on the work of the center including:

- National projections 2008-2018 are available.
- Tables for population demographics will not yet be considered stable enough to be included in full WID structure.
- Licensed Occupation data was submitted to ACINet in March 2010. The Occupational codes submitted by states required updating to the new ONet codes.
- 2010 CIP and SOC updated codes will require extensive time to update associated crosswalk tables.

**Roger Therrien(CT)** provided a **WIC and NASWA Update** . At the request of ETA, WIC is forming a group to contact customers to see if LMI is meeting their needs. Funds have been made available to K-12 programs and higher education agencies to focus on employment outcomes. States are forming partnerships with educational institutions to help track and report in this area. WIC is forming a technology resource group. This is a carryover of the technology study they did last year. They want to improve the delivery of LMI workforce information. States included in this group are CA OH VT MO.

Steve Hine (MN) provided a report from the **Policy Subcommittee**. This subcommittee joined the Information Delivery subcommittee to discuss a sandbox project-the group will work

with NCSC to develop a prototype website and MN will offer one of the first technology tools, Oregon will also contribute several to launch the site. A new master contract will be required for the Employer Database in 3 years. The Policy Subcommittee will begin initial work on this in the near future.

Steve Duthie (MT) provided the update for the Information Delivery Subcommittee. The committee brainstormed policy for this new subcommittee. Focus on mobile applications, mapping applications, charting applications to begin offering technology tools to other states for free through the ARC website.

Denise Lee (NC) provided the update for the Education and Communication Subcommittee. The group worked to rewrite the training manual for the May training in Boise.

Dana Placzek (CT) provided the update for the Structure Subcommittee. The group determined version 2.5 will be released this year.

## ARC Meeting Highlights

*Charleston, South Carolina – December 2009*

- The ARC established a new working group, the **Information Delivery Subcommittee**, to focus on expanding the methods of delivery of Workforce Information Database content, including social media and mobile applications.
- The **Structure Subcommittee** continued development of the database structure document for the next release of the Workforce Information Database, version 2.5.
- The **Education and Communications Subcommittee** focused on planning for a DBA training session to be held in the summer 2010 and a possible seminar.
- The **National Crosswalk Service Center** worked to revised classification systems such as the 2010 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) and the latest edition ( 14.0) of the O\*NET Database. The NCSC also enhanced the content and function of the WID Wiki. **For more detail**, read the expanded meeting notes at the [ARC](#)

## Storing CPI Data within WID *(continued)*

stfips	areatype	area	periodyear	periodtyp	period	cpitype	cpisource	cpi	pctchgy	pctchgm
00	07	000200	2008	03	05	01	1	207.168	4	0.9
00	07	000200	2008	03	06	01	1	208.968	4.9	0.9
00	07	000200	2008	03	07	01	1	210.071	5.6	0.5
00	07	000200	2008	03	08	01	1	209.351	5.4	-0.3
00	07	000200	2008	03	09	01	1	209.252	4.8	0
00	07	000200	2008	03	10	01	1	206.019	3.3	-1.5
00	07	000200	2008	03	11	01	1	201.737	0.5	-2.1
00	07	000200	2008	03	12	01	1	199.582	-0.3	-1.1
00	07	000200	2008	01	00	01	1	205.382		
00	07	000200	2008	07	01	01	1	204.763		
00	07	000200	2008	07	02	01	1	206.002		
00	07	000200	2009	03	01	01	1	200.815	-0.3	0.6
00	07	000200	2009	03	02	01	1	201.453	-0.2	0.3
00	07	000200	2009	03	03	01	1	202.021	-0.8	0.3
00	07	000200	2009	03	04	01	1	202.327	-1.5	0.2
00	07	000200	2009	03	05	01	1	203.195	-1.9	0.4
00	07	000200	2009	03	06	01	1	205.35	-1.7	1.1
00	07	000200	2009	03	07	01	1	204.814	-2.5	-0.3
00	07	000200	2009	03	08	01	1	205.632	-1.8	0.4
00	07	000200	2009	03	09	01	1	205.601	-1.7	0
00	07	000200	2009	03	10	01	1	205.706	-0.2	0.1
00	07	000200	2009	03	11	01	1	206.247	2.2	0.3
00	07	000200	2009	03	12	01	1	205.613	3	-0.3
00	07	000200	2009	01	00	01	1	204.064		
00	07	000200	2009	07	01	01	1	202.527		
00	07	000200	2009	07	02	01	1	205.602		
00	07	000200	2010	03	01	01	1	206.564	2.9	0.5

Example of CPI table holding CPI-U Midwest Region data.

stfips	areatype	area	areaname	areadesc
00	00	000000	United States	United States
00	07	000200	Midwest CPI-U Region	BLS Defined Midwest region for CPI-U containing IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, and WI
01	01	000001	Alabama	Alabama
01	04	000001	AUTAUGA COUNTY	AUTAUGA COUNTY
01	04	000002	BALDWIN COUNTY	BALDWIN COUNTY

Example of geog table entry to define the Midwest CPI region.

The group decided not to populate subgeog with each individual state that made up the CPI region for the simple reason that this data will not be available at the individual state level and rolling up the data into different geographies is not possible. For states wishing to populate population range defined CPI data, the same area type of 07 should be used. For the metro areas, states should utilize existing area types and area codes for those areas. Individual states may further define these regions at their discretion.

*Kim Hughes former Workforce Information Database Administrator for the Nebraska Department of Labor*

## Demographics Data *(continued)*

structure for the table and a plan to populate it. The most widely used source of demographic information is the Decennial Census of the Population, conducted by the Bureau of the Census. The Census Bureau also conducts the annual American Community Survey (ACS) which includes updated estimates to the demographic variables found in the census. The geographic coverage of the ACS has increased over time and will eventually match that from the decennial census. To illustrate the increasing geographic coverage of the ACS, the number of counties and places for which estimates are included in the 2000 census and selected ACS files are available are included in the following table:

	2000 (Census)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005- 2007
Counties	3,219	787	795	800	802	1,882
Places	25,375	499	511	520	532	2,081

The introduction of three-year estimates (which are averages for all survey returns for the three-year period) for 2005-07 greatly increased the number of areas for which estimates are developed. The upcoming release of five-year estimates (2005-2009) will bring the number of areas covered up to all counties and places as covered by the census. The increased number of areas comes at the price of increased complexity in the use of the data. Comparison of estimates with those for the same area developed for a different time frame can be misleading. The Census Bureau provides assistance in using the different types of estimates on their [web site](#).

The prototype Workforce Information Database demographic table contains over 120 variables covering age, gender, race and ethnicity. The table also includes margin of error estimates for all of the variables for which they were furnished by the Census Bureau. Some variables are combinations of two or more others, so margin of error estimates are not included for them. You will find more information about the prototype demographics table including a structure document and example content for the state of Iowa on the NCSC's WID [Non-standard Tables page](#). The NCSC can now generate state-specific tables containing this information. To request a file for your state, or for more information, contact the NCSC at [ncsc@iowa.gov](mailto:ncsc@iowa.gov).



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*The Workforce Information Database is a normalized, relational database structure developed for the storage and maintenance of labor market, economic, demographic and occupational information. The Analyst Resource Center is responsible for the Workforce Information Database structure development, update, and maintenance. Members include North Carolina (lead), Connecticut, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Texas, Wyoming, and ETA, along with support from the National Crosswalk Service Center.*