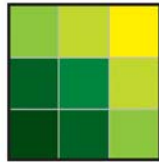


# Sigourney, Iowa Laborshed Analysis



A Project of:



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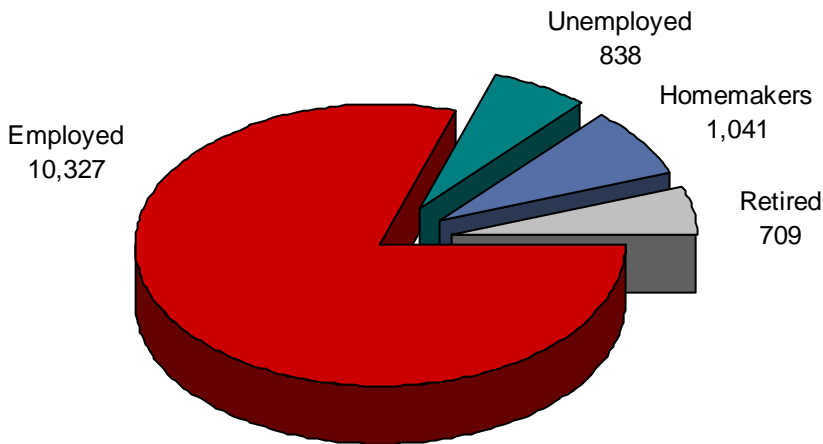
A Study of Workforce Characteristics  
*Released February 2008*

# 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 Sigourney 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: 41,690 (entire Laborshed Area)**

**Estimated Number of Individuals Very Likely or Somewhat Likely to Change or Accept Employment (12,915)**



## Quick Facts:

*(Employed - willing to change employment)*

- 11.7% are working multiple jobs;
- Currently working an average of 41 hours per week;
- Average age is 43 years old;
- 28.9% currently working in professional, paraprofessional, or technical occupations followed by 27.6% in production, construction, or material handling occupations;
- Most frequently identified job search sources:
  - Local/Regional newspapers  
The Ottumwa Courier  
The Des Moines Register
  - Internet  
[www.iowaworkforce.org](http://www.iowaworkforce.org)  
[www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)
  - Local Iowa Workforce Development Centers
  - Networking through friends, family, or 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.

- 1.2% Inadequate hours (124 people)
- 1.2% Low income (124 people)
- 2.5% Mismatch of skills (258 people)
- 4.4% Total estimated underemployment (454 people)

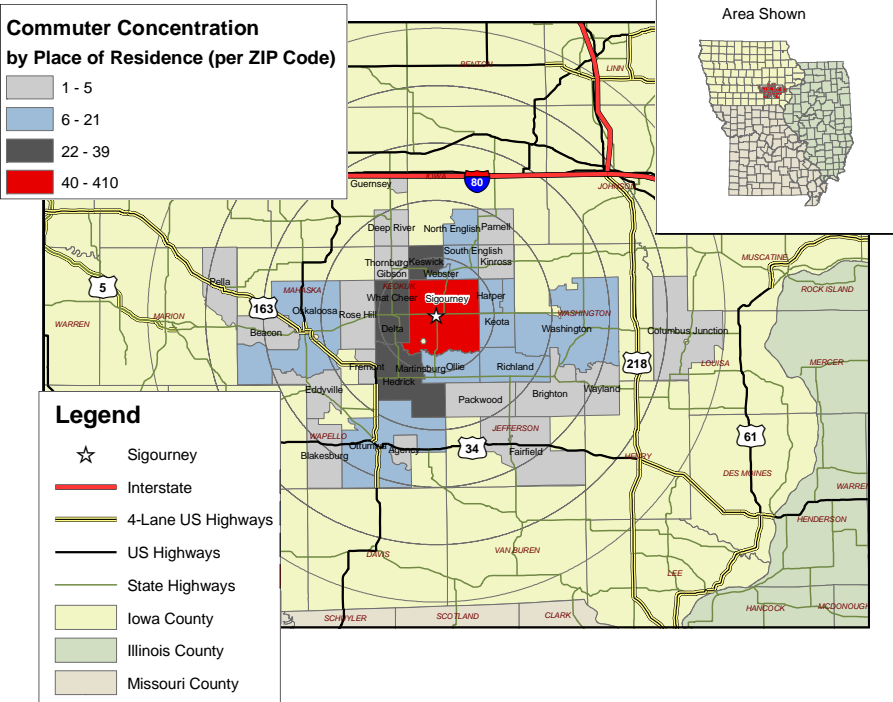
*Individuals may be underemployed for more than one reason; but are only counted once for total estimated underemployment.*

## Industrial Classification of the Employed

Industry	% of Laborshed	# of Employed
Health Care & Social Services	17.3%	5,770
Education	15.8%	5,270
Manufacturing	13.6%	4,536
Wholesale & Retail Trade	12.7%	4,236
Public Administration & Government	8.7%	2,902
Agriculture	6.5%	2,168
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	5.3%	1,768
Professional Services	5.3%	1,768
Construction	5.0%	1,668
Personal Services	4.3%	1,434
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	4.0%	1,334
Entertainment & Recreation	1.2%	400

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

# Sigourney Commuting Area



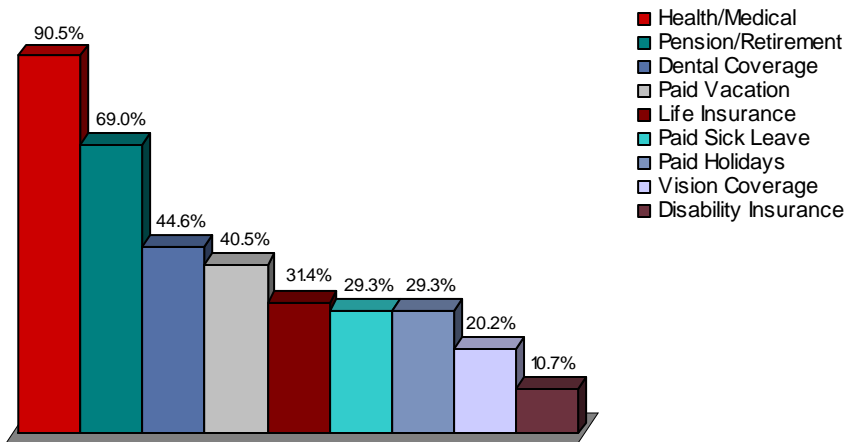
## Commuting Statistics

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

Those who are willing to change employment in the Sigourney Laborshed area are willing to commute an average of 29 miles one way for employment opportunities.



## 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 (67.9%) of respondents are currently sharing the cost of premiums with the employer. However, 24.8 percent of the employers in the area pay the entire cost of insurance premiums as a benefit for their employees.

## Education and Median Wage Characteristics by Industry

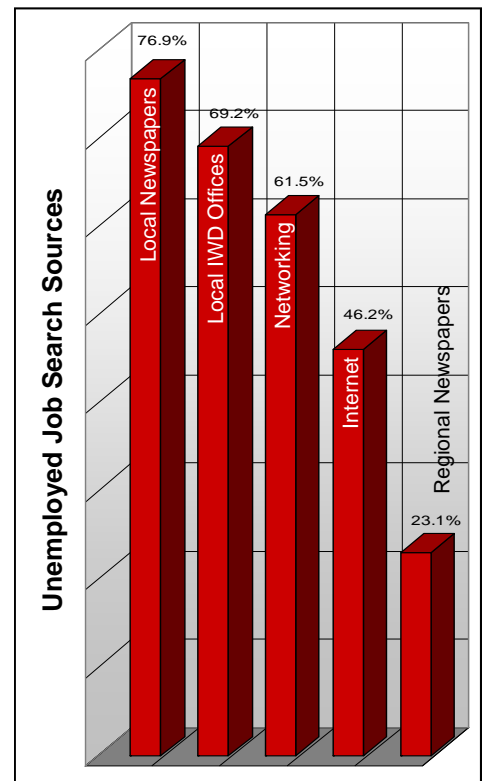
Industry	Education			Median Wages	
	Some Level Beyond High School	Associate Degree	Undergraduate Degree or Higher	Salary Wages (per year)	Non-Salary Wages (per hour)
Agriculture	60.9%	13.0%	30.4%	\$37,500	\$12.25
Construction	54.5%	9.1%	9.1%	\$42,500	\$15.90
Manufacturing	46.2%	9.6%	23.1%	\$50,000	\$15.00
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	47.6%	14.3%	19.1%	\$62,500	\$26.00
Wholesale & Retail Trade	52.0%	10.0%	26.0%	\$38,000	\$9.00
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	80.0%	20.0%	46.7%	\$45,000	*
Health Care & Social Services	73.9%	31.9%	26.1%	\$41,000	\$13.88
Personal Services	47.4%	21.1%	10.6%	*	\$8.00
Entertainment & Recreation	66.7%	33.3%	33.4%	*	*
Professional Services	59.3%	18.5%	11.1%	\$19,000	\$12.35
Public Administration & Government	66.7%	13.9%	25.0%	\$47,500	\$18.39
Education	93.2%	15.3%	64.4%	\$30,000	\$13.75

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 838 unemployed individuals are willing to accept employment;
- Average age is 46 years old;
- Education:
  - 57.1% have an education beyond high school
  - 28.6% have an associate degree
  - 14.3% have an undergraduate degree
- Estimated wage range to attract the upper 66-75% qualified hourly wage applicants is \$12.72 to \$15.45/hr. with a median of the lowest wage of \$10.00/hr.;
- Willing to commute an average of 23 miles one way for the right opportunity;
- 71.4% expressed interest in seasonal and 71.4% in temporary employment opportunities;
- 35.7% are interested in working varied shifts (2nd, 3rd & split);
- Would prefer to enter employment that offers the following benefits:
  - Health/medical insurance
  - Pension/retirement options
  - Paid vacation
  - Disability insurance
  - Prescription drug coverage
  - Flexible schedules
- 42.9% of the unemployed are seeking employment offers where the employer/employee share the cost of medical insurance premiums.



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## For more information regarding the Sigourney Laborshed Study, contact:

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