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Welcome to Washington's Workforce Explorer! Whether you are an employer or a job seeker, a student or an economic analyst, you can find economic information to help you make informed decisions. To learn about the features and functions of the site, [take the tour](#).

Looking for work?
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Quick Stats

Unemployment Rates

	Mar-03	Feb-03	Mar-02
Washington	7.0%	6.9%	7.5%
Not Seasonally Adjusted	7.4%	7.6%	7.8%
United States	5.8%	5.8%	5.7%
Not Seasonally Adjusted	6.2%	6.4%	6.1%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics and Washington State Labor Market & Economic Analysis

Washington Job Growth

Nonfarm Payroll Employment, in Thousands

	Mar-03	Feb-03	Mar-02	Change From	
				Feb-03	Mar-02
Total	2,633.1	2,624.4	2,623.0	8.7	10.1
Construction	147.7	146.0	144.6	1.7	3.1
Manufacturing	267.5	268.2	267.1	0.9	10.6

Monthly Press Release

Commissioner's Press Release



Commissioner Dr. Sylvia Mundy announced today that Washington's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point to 7.0 percent in March, Employment Security Commissioner Sylvia P. Mundy announced today. The nation's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained constant at 5.8 percent. Washington's non-adjusted unemployment rate declined by two-tenths of a percentage point to 7.4 percent. 4/22/2003

[More...](#)

Additional Press Release Items:

- [Unemployment Rates \(excel format\)](#)
- [State and Local Area Industry Employment \(excel format\)](#)
- [Industry Employment Uses New Coding System \(NAICS\)](#)

Commissioner's Press Release Schedule for 2003

**Washington Employment Security Department
2003 NASCIO Awards
Digital Government: Government to Citizen (G to C)**

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Site Information

Site Name: Workforce Explorer
 URL: www.workforceexplorer.com
 Date site launched: September 1st, 2002
 Unique Monthly Users: 10,000

Executive Summary

Site Information

Site Name: Workforce Explorer

URL: www.workforceexplorer.com

Date site launched: September 1st, 2002

Unique Monthly Users: 10,000

The Workforce Explorer system is a web based labor market information delivery system that the State of Washington along with 22 other states including Texas, Hawaii, Nevada and California developed to provide customized, context sensitive, dynamic and personalized labor market information over the web. It serves a multitude of customers and a wide audience including employers, job seekers, economists, legislators, workforce development boards, One-Stop Centers, labor market analysts and the general public. This project was a joint effort between a Consortium of 22 states to build a generic application which could be customized and deployed by over 22 states. This project was funded in part by the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, and developed by National Systems and Research. Another consultant, Northrop Grumman, performed IV&V and oversight of the development.

Some of the core services provided by this delivery system include:

- Access to local career and occupational information
- Seamless integration of job and labor market information
- Dynamic access to labor market information including downloading and graphing
- Direct access to decision making data
- Web-based management tools which includes content, website, user and data management
- End-User personalization for saving content, data and other information

The Workforce Explorer has allowed Washington State Employment Security Department, Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch, plus the other Consortium states, to increase its productivity with the same number of staff - while radically improving customer service through web access and instant delivery of critical information. The effectiveness of this application can be directly measured by the number of users utilizing the site, which ranges from 2,000 per week to 3,000 and the reduction of in person calls to the Department for information requests. The 100% browser based approach of the system has also empowered internal staff to contribute content and data anywhere and anyplace as long as they have access to the web.

The principle concept behind the Workforce Informer Consortium approach was to create a framework for states to implement systems that have been deployed by other states thereby reducing their risk and additional development effort. As the Consortium moves forward, a vision is being defined to enhance the product and take it to the next level.

Other states using the same application are:

Hawaii:	www.hiwi.org
Texas:	www.tracer2.com
Nevada:	www.nevadaworkforce.com
Alaska:	http://almis.labor.state.ak.us
Kentucky	www.workforcekentucky.ky.gov
Idaho	www.jobservice.ws

Synopsis

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A. Description of the Project

Workforceexplorer.com is a public and private website of the State of Washington, Employment Security Department, Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch. The specific application being nominated for the 2002 NASCIO Awards is the Workforce Explorer System. However the following sites are also being nominated as sites that were deployed by other member states using the Workforce Explorer generic architecture.

Hawaii: www.hiwi.org
Texas: www.tracer2.com
Nevada: www.nevadaworkforce.com
Alaska: <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>
Kentucky: www.workforcekentucky.ky.gov
Idaho: www.jobservice.ws

Washington, along with other states faced the challenge of redesigning a pseudo-dynamic delivery site and to build a 100% web based delivery system and the ability for the back-office users to deliver dynamic information over the web and to keep it fresh without reliance on a vendor. The challenge was complicated by the fact that this delivery system also had to meet the needs of 22 other states. This would be mean building a system so generic that anyone could use it, but also customizable by each state.

The system was built on time and within budget. The system is currently in use by over seven states and will be deployed to 7 more states in the upcoming year. The project has been a overwhelming success and has received critical acclaim from all parts of the government including the Governors office.

B. Significance to the Improvement of the Operation of Government

Since its creation, Workforceexplorer has provided not only all of the traditional labor market data expected from this type of site, but a full set of self-services that empowers various customer groups to find information on the site customize it and save it. As newer data and content gets posted, a customer's personal profile gets dynamically updated.

The significance of this project and to the improvement to the operation of government can be measured in several ways:

- a) Consolidation of costs and efforts among 22 states to build a world-class delivery system and share knowledge and subject matter expertise.
- b) A 100% web based delivery system which enables agency employees through sophisticated user roles/privileges to control, manage and update the website all through a browser.
- c) Delivery and enhancing the site through consolidating effort. For example Washington State can initiate a change, which will then be received by other states.

C. Benefits realized by service recipients, taxpayers, agency, or state

The benefits realized by this system can be measured along several lines and user groups.

- a) **Consortium of states:** This group benefited from the fact that they produced a customizable, generic application by consolidating efforts and costs.
- b) **Citizens of Washington:** Access to dynamic labor market information with a few clicks. They are able to query this data, download or save it.
- c) **Washington LMEA Staff:** They are able to control, manage and update their site all by clicking an pointing through a browser. They can perform their day to day functions including adding website content, managing data, changing colors through the application.
- d) **Washington Taxpayers:** Whereas traditional labor market information was often printed which included hefty publishing costs or sent out on CD's this delivery system has seen the delivery of information through a new medium and lowered costs.

D. Return on Investment

While it is too soon to do a comprehensive return on investment study, Washington State does have the statistics to prove the value of this site. The return on investment can also be measured by the fact that they are several states using this product and the Consortium approach has overwhelmingly worked. Please see site stats listed below for Workforce Explorer for the month of April

Visit Summary

Visits	28,938
Average per day	964
Average visit length	00:16:25
Median Visit Time	00:06:12

Page View Summary

Page Views	1,770,743
Average per day	59,024
Dynamic Pages and Forms Views	1,599,161
Document Views	171,582

Visitor Summary

Unique Visitors	9,445
Visitors Who Visited Once	7,042
Visitors Who Visited More Than Once	2,403

Hit Summary

Successful Hits for Entire Site	2,633,404
Average Hits per Day	87,780
Home Page Hits	35,537