

Bedford, Iowa

Laborshed Analysis

A Study of Workforce Characteristics

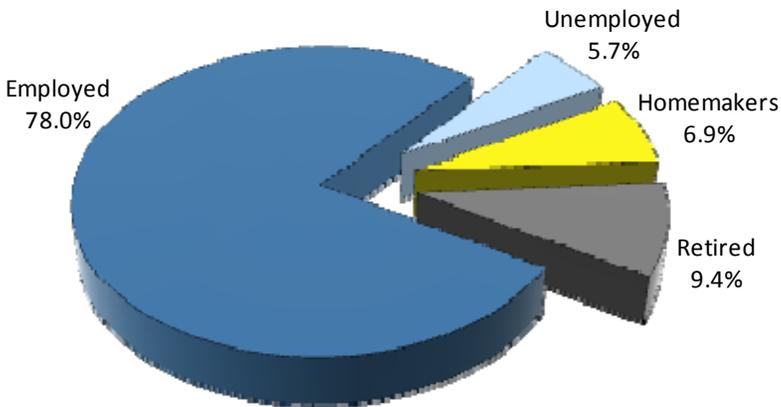
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Laborshed Studies

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 Bedford 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.*

Employment Status



Total Potential Labor Force: 24,879 (entire Laborshed Area)

Estimated Number of Individuals Very Likely or Somewhat Likely to Change or Accept Employment (7,379)

- 6,307 Employed
- 289 Unemployed
- 390 Homemakers, Not Employed
- 393 Retired

Underemployment

The underemployed are composed of individuals who are working fewer than 35 hours per week but desire more hours; who are 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.

- 2.5% Inadequate hours (158 people)
- 3.0% Mismatch of skills (189 people)
- 1.7% Low income (107 people)
- 5.7% Total estimated underemployment (359 people)

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

Industrial Classification of the Employed

Industry	% of Laborshed	# of Employed	% Employed	% Willing to Change Employment	% Unemployed
Manufacturing	15.8%	3,066	78.0%	23.9%	*
Education	15.1%	2,930	80.0%	11.4%	7.3%
Healthcare & Social Services	13.4%	2,600	75.0%	33.3%	7.7%
Public Administration & Government	11.7%	2,270	97.1%	17.6%	*
Wholesale & Retail Trade	9.6%	1,863	75.7%	28.6%	5.4%
Agriculture	7.9%	1,533	85.2%	13.0%	3.7%
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	6.5%	1,261	70.4%	26.3%	*
Personal Services	6.5%	1,261	76.0%	10.5%	8.0%
Construction	5.2%	1,009	93.8%	33.3%	6.2%
Professional Services	4.1%	796	85.7%	25.0%	7.1%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	3.8%	737	84.6%	27.3%	*
Entertainment & Recreation	0.4%	78	*	*	*

**Insufficient survey data/refused*

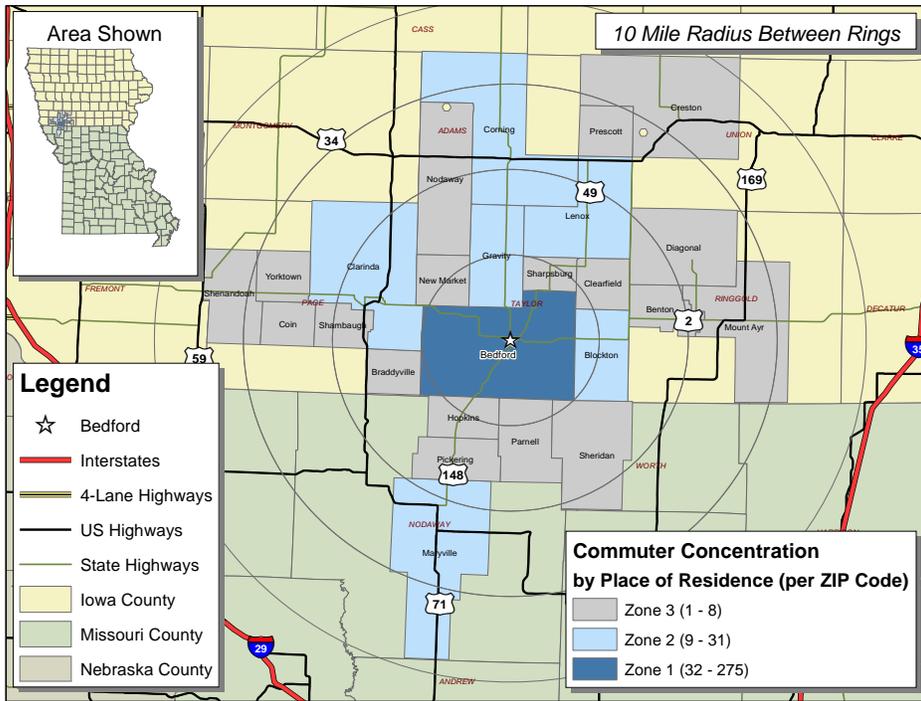
Quick Facts

(Employed - willing to change employment)

- 24.7% are working multiple jobs
- Currently working an average of 43 hours per week
- Average age is 48 years old
- 31.5% currently working within the professional, paraprofessional, & technical occupational category followed by 28.8% within the production, construction, & material handling occupational category
- Most frequently identified job search sources:
 - Internet
 - www.iowaworkforce.org
 - www.monster.com
 - Local/Regional newspapers
 - The Des Moines Register
 - Bedford Times-Press
 - Omaha World Herald
 - Creston News Advertiser
 - Networking through friends, family, and acquaintances
 - Local Iowa Workforce Development Centers

Survey respondents from the Bedford Laborshed area were asked to identify the industry in which they are currently working. The largest concentration of workers are employed in the manufacturing industry as shown in the table above.

Bedford Laborshed Area



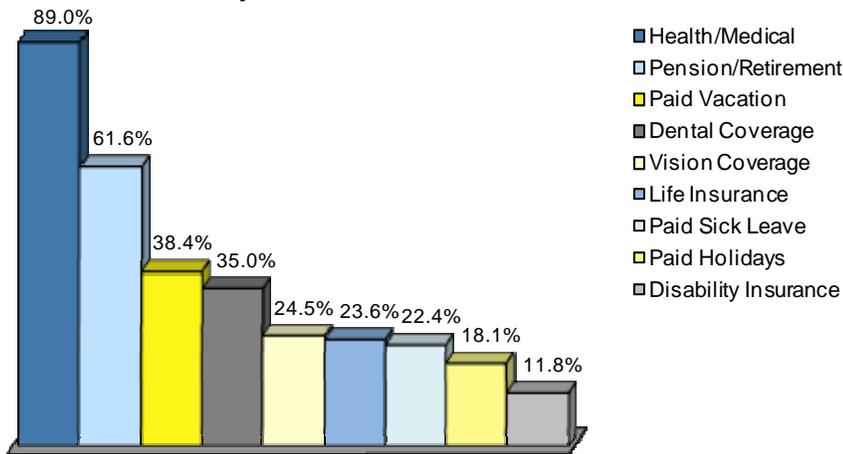
Commuting Statistics

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

Those who are willing to change/accept employment in the Bedford Laborshed area are willing to commute an average of 26 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 (64.7%) of respondents state they are currently sharing the cost of health/medical insurance premiums with their employer. However, 28.4 percent indicate their employer pays the entire cost of insurance premiums.

Education and Median Wage Characteristics by Industry

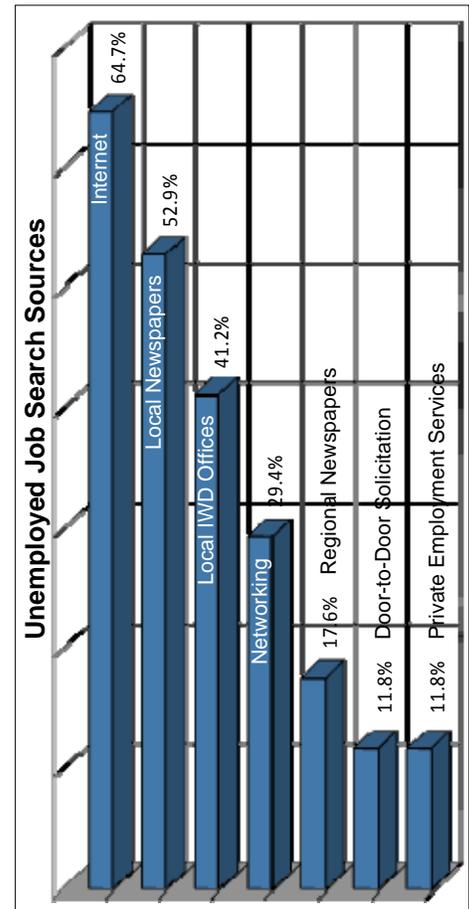
Industry	Education			Median Wages	
	Some Level Beyond High School	Associate Degree	Undergraduate Degree or Higher	Salary Wages (per year)	Non Salary Wages (per hour)
Agriculture	70.4%	3.7%	25.9%	\$36,000	\$12.50
Construction	43.7%	6.3%	25.1%	\$40,000	\$13.00
Manufacturing	52.5%	10.2%	18.7%	\$47,000	\$17.00
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	74.1%	14.8%	29.6%	*	\$13.00
Wholesale & Retail Trade	62.2%	13.5%	24.3%	\$40,000	\$8.78
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	76.9%	*	53.9%	\$45,500	\$9.70
Healthcare & Social Services	71.2%	21.2%	28.9%	\$70,000	\$12.10
Personal Services	60.0%	8.0%	28.0%	\$36,000	\$8.25
Entertainment & Recreation	*	*	*	*	*
Professional Services	92.9%	21.4%	42.9%	\$34,500	\$15.00
Public Administration & Government	77.1%	11.4%	37.2%	\$46,250	\$18.00
Education	87.3%	7.3%	69.1%	\$44,000	\$11.56

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 289 unemployed individuals are willing to accept employment
- Average age is 47 years old
- 64.7% are female; 35.3% are male
- Education:
 - 64.7% have an education beyond high school
 - 5.9% are trade certified
 - 5.9% have vocational training
 - 5.9% have an associate degree
 - 11.8% have an undergraduate degree
 - 5.9% have a postgraduate/professional degree
- Estimated wage range to attract the upper 66-75% qualified hourly wage applicants is \$12.52 to \$14.00/hr. with a median of the lowest wage of \$10.00
- Willing to commute an average of 30 miles one way for the right opportunity
- 76.5% expressed interest in temporary and seasonal employment opportunities
- 47.1% expressed interest in working varied shifts (2nd, 3rd & split)
- Would prefer to enter employment that offers the following benefits:
 - Health/medical insurance - 86.7%
 - Pension/retirement options - 33.3%
 - Paid vacation - 26.7%
 - Dental coverage - 20.0%
 - Life insurance - 13.3%
 - Paid holidays - 6.7%
 - Paid sick leave - 6.7%
 - Paid time off - 6.7%
 - Vision coverage - 6.7%
- 53.8% indicated they are seeking employment offers where the employer/employee share the cost of medical insurance premiums.



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For more information regarding the Bedford Laborshed Analysis, contact:

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