



### The workforce investment system – a critical tool for America’s economic recovery

The nation’s Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs have played a vitally important role in helping America’s workers find new jobs or get the training they need to make career changes in a very tough economy.

Attached is a comparison summary of the Department of Labor’s latest workforce performance results for the twelve month periods ending June 30, 2008 and June 30, 2010 (the most recent period for which DOL has provided data). The unemployment rate during this period rose from 5.6% in June 2008 to 9.5% in June 2010. **The latest data shows a remarkable 234% increase in WIA participation rates over the past two years.**

	2008 – workers served	2010 – workers served	Increase (decrease)
WIA programs total	3.433 million	8.025 million	234%
WIA – Adults	2.788 million	6.695 million	240%
WIA – Dislocated Workers	396,000	1.027 Million	259%
WIA – Youth	249,000	303,000	21%

	WIA Entered Employment Rate		WIA Retention Rate		Education Attainment	
	2008	2010	2008	2010	2008	2010
WIA – Adult	68%	54%	84%	78%		
WIA – Dislocated Worker	72%	51%	87%	80%		
WIA – Youth*	67%	58%			57%	58%

\* WIA – youth percent reflects both entries into employment or to further education

Along with the increase in utilization of WIA services, **the success of WIA programs is measured through results – over 4 million individuals placed in jobs through WIA services this past program year**, despite the fact there are over four jobseekers for every available job.

**WIA federal funds also continue to demonstrate a high Return on Investment (ROI).** A number of states have measured ROI for WIA funded programs – depending on the models used, these returns range from \$1.52 returned to communities in Texas for every federal dollar spent to over \$3.50 returned in Idaho. This high ROI is generated because WIA programs create taxpayers by helping people gain employment, instead of draining valuable social services.

The nation’s private sector led workforce boards are playing an important role in job creation, working in partnership with employers to prepare workers for new and existing jobs created in their local economies.