



WESTMARC WORK FORCE LABOR MARKET STUDY FACT SHEET
November 6, 2008

WESTMARC Labor Market Study Background: The communities of the West Valley formed a consortium to better understand their region and to promote its growth and development. In May 2008, WESTMARC engaged ERISS Corporation and its partner, Advanced Workforce Systems, to prepare a comprehensive labor market analysis of the West Valley. The analysis involved a survey of all West Valley businesses with 20 or more employees and a detailed review of available government information.

Survey Headlines:

- The West Valley is Still Growing - despite negative swings in the overall economy, most industries reported expected growth in employment over the next 12 months
- High-Quality, New Workers Generally Easy to Find for West Valley Employers
- Changing Labor Market Puts High Value on Training, Associate Degrees and Technical Certificates / Shows Significant Demand for Bachelors and Graduate Degrees
- Business Expansion is the Lead Driver of New Workforce Demand
- Growth Opportunities Seen in Health Services, Transportation/Utilities, Construction, and Non-Store Retailing
- West Valley Businesses Recruiting Successfully from the Entire Metro Phoenix Area
- Overall Labor Supply Remains High Despite Low Unemployment Rates, with 450,000+ Available for the Right Offer
- Employee Absenteeism is a Non-Issue for Most West Valley Employers

About the Survey: The survey targeted 2,831 businesses with more than 20 employees. 1,004 businesses participated in the survey, a 35.46% response rate. The survey analyzed seven core areas:

- The labor supply available to employers in the West Valley
- Industries experiencing growth
- Issues of absenteeism or low skills in West Valley firms
- Types of education most highly valued by West Valley employers
- Employer awareness of education and training resources available in the West Valley
- Younger/mature worker mix and any productivity gaps
- Industries with the best development opportunities for the West Valley

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WESTMARC Labor Market Study Taskforce Committee: WESTMARC would like to extend a special thanks to the Labor Market Study Taskforce Committee members for their tireless efforts to make the study a success.

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City of Avondale

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City of Glendale

City of Goodyear

City of Peoria

City of Surprise

Town of Buckeye

About WESTMARC: WESTMARC (Western Maricopa Communities) is an organization representing 15 West Valley communities and their interests. Together, these 15 communities represent 35% of the current population of Maricopa County and three of the ten most populated cities in Arizona. As a result of the Labor Market Study, WESTMARC is now assembling a West Valley marketing brochure to help its member communities better promote themselves and enhance regional advocacy and economic development practices.

For More Information: Please visit the US Works website at www.usworks.com/westmarc, or contact Darah Mann at WESTMARC at 623-435-0431, ext. 203 or via darah@westmarc.org.