

This publication is provided jointly from the WIA Local Workforce Investment Boards representing Maricopa County and the City of Phoenix. Previous editions of Items of Note are available online [here](#).

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FACTS & FIGURES

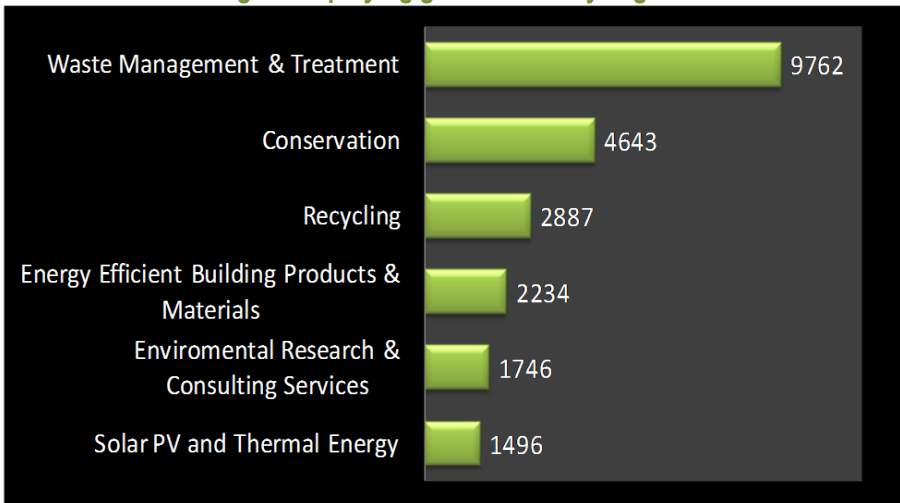
DOL Publishes WIA Allocations to the States

Arizona's allocation is \$2 million less than last year. Although this sounds like bad news, Arizona has been designated as an "Area of Substantial Unemployment", or an "ASU." Last year this designation boosted Arizona's allocation by \$10.2 million. Because Arizona retains this designation, the State will still be ahead by a little more than \$8 million. Thus, the allocation for MWC will be relatively stable from this year to next.

How do 'green' jobs measure up?

According to LaborInsight.com from 3/10 to 3/11 the 5,976 green job openings accounted for only 1.85% of all Arizona job openings.

Arizona's largest employing green-economy segments include:



NEWS & MEDIA

17,200 new jobs a boost for Arizona But jobless-rate drop may imperil benefits by Betty Beard *The Arizona Republic* (5/20/11) — Excerpt: Patrick Burkhart, assistant director of Maricopa County's Human Services Department, said the construction hires could mean that many projects funded by federal stimulus dollars last year are finally starting, as well as an Intel Corp. project expected to create about 600 construction jobs in Chandler.

Commerce Department economists also speculated that more workers have been called into action to repair hail and air-conditioning damage from October storms and to assist with a surge in home improvements.

Arizona taxable sales at building material, lawn and garden stores in March rose almost 6 percent over a year earlier, the Arizona Department of Revenue reported.

As further evidence of a pickup in construction jobs, Burkhart said, Maricopa Workforce Connections, which he oversees, is seeing a sharp increase in employment for union apprentices in construction trades...."Even though the employment picture is improving, we are still so far behind in terms of the number of jobs lost, in terms of what we have to replace," Burkhart said.

He said those 55 and older, military veterans and young people are having an especially hard time finding work. Stan Flowers, workforce-development supervisor for Phoenix Workforce Connections, said his staff also works with experienced industrial, mechanical and other engineers who are finding the job market tough. "I think there might be a glut for them," he said. The Workforce Connections programs and career centers they operate offer jobless workers resume writing, interviewing and other skills they may need in a highly competitive job market.

"When you interview for a job, there are eight other people who look just like you on paper," Flowers said. "Obviously, only one is going to get a job. You've got to make sure you are the one person."

Submitted by:

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On behalf of: MWC Board Members

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Human Resources, Pro's Ranch Markets

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Patrick Burkhart, Assistant Director
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On Behalf of PWC Board Members

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Collaboratively providing workforce solutions to businesses and individuals throughout Maricopa County.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

NEWS & MEDIA

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Middle class vulnerable to offshoring jobs by Betty Beard, *The Arizona Republic* (5/29/11) — Excerpt: Patrick Burkhart, assistant director of Maricopa County's Human Services Department, who oversees Maricopa Workforce Connections, said he is seeing evidence that companies shutting down plants are just consolidating and moving the jobs elsewhere in the U.S., not overseas. Workforce Connections provides outplacement services for laid-off workers.

"I don't think it (offshoring) is entirely over yet, but we're not seeing it nearly the way it was," he said.



Honing your technology skills is 1 key to success by Alyson Zepeda, *Special for the Republic* (6/04/11) — Excerpt: Free training opportunities abound, with state-funded groups such as Maricopa Workforce Connections and non-profits such as Goodwill of Central Arizona often offering free computer-training classes, including Microsoft Word, Excel or PowerPoint.



PARTNER ITEMS

State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP)

MWC and PWC continue nurturing relationships with Abengoa Solar, Rio Glass, Arizona Public Services, and local apprenticeship programs to market and provide deliverables from the SESP grant to Central Region employers and job seekers. Currently more than 580 job seekers are benefiting from SESP training funds (187 unemployed, 49 dislocated, 351 incumbent), 103 have already completed their selected "green" training. Of those benefitting, 16 SESP participants have completed the first Certified Energy program, contracted by PWC with APS, and are awaiting the results of the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) certification exam.



The Central Region State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) group; MWC/PWC, West-Med and Maricopa Community Colleges, highlighted the purpose and benefits of SESP to local employers via a full-page ad appearing in the May edition of *InBusiness Magazine*.

Additional information about SESP for [job seekers](#) and [employers](#) is available online

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES



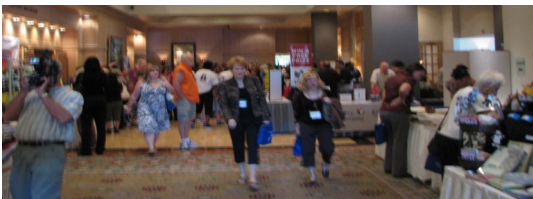
East Valley Career Expo (4/30/11) — More than 530 job seekers met with 34 employers at this Saturday morning event co-hosted by and Maricopa Workforce Connections and LDS Employment Resource Services. Employers reported the attending job seekers appeared to be more job ready. One employer survey comment stated: "...this event should be held quarterly. Great candidates!"



MWC Trainer, Justin Jones, presented a workshop on the impact of social media on today's job search.

MWC marketed local One-Stop Career Center services to attending job seekers and exhibiting businesses.

3rd Annual Arizona Military Women's Conference (4/30/11) — Maricopa Workforce Connections employees were quick to rise to the occasion and support Arizona Department of Veterans' Services who recently sponsored the 3rd Annual Arizona Military Women's Conference; held at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel in Phoenix, Ariz. More than 280 military women attended the conference which offered 21 break-out sessions and presentations. MWC had a booth at the conference and explained WIA services to attendees.



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www.phoenix.gov/PHXWIN/

MWC and PWC focus on increasing the wealth of individuals, businesses, and the community by identifying labor market needs to develop effective, innovative responses to meet the ever changing industry demands.

Please visit the valley's comprehensive WIA One-Stop Career Centers. We'd enjoy showing you what we do!