

## *Recent Clients*

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The Docking Institute has performed over 40 labor surveys for regions and communities. Our clients include:

- **Manhattan Chamber of Commerce**
- **Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments**
- **Development Corporation of North Platte, Nebraska**

## *Custom Delivery*

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The UCSR will work with you to develop a labor survey project tailored to your specific concerns and needs. Professional services provided by the UCSR include the development of a questionnaire, a plan for sampling, a report based on the analysis of the survey data, and a time frame for the successful completion of the project.

Information gathered by a professional survey can provide a valuable resource in your business recruitment and expansion efforts. We will provide a final report in both text and electronic format. If desired, the Study Director from the UCSR will make a public presentation of the findings. This resource can be used to assist decision-making that will affect your programs and operations.

## *Cost of Services*

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A custom proposal and cost estimate is available upon request at no cost.

## *Mission*

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The primary mission of Fort Hays State University's Docking Institute of Public Affairs is to facilitate effective public policy decision-making.

*The Institute's five primary programs are:*

- Public policy and public opinion research for governmental and non-profit entities.
- Strategic planning and consulting.
- Public affairs programming through conferences, speakers, forums, television and radio programming, newspaper columns and scholarly publications.
- Telecommunications and information technology consulting and development.
- Public administration and leadership training programs.

## *Contact Us*

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For more information contact

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The University Center for Survey Research

*Labor*  
Assessment & Availability

Fort Hays State University  
**THE DOCKING INSTITUTE**  
O F P U B L I C A F F A I R S

## *The Problem*

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Communities and regions are attempting to expand and diversify their economies to ensure their economic well being.

Is your economic development group or chamber interested in:

- **Retaining existing businesses?**
- **Promoting expansion of existing businesses?**
- **Attracting new businesses to the area?**
- **Helping new businesses start-up locally?**
- **Creating education/training that is responsive to businesses needs?**

If you answered YES to any of these questions, taking action requires accurate documentation of the quality and availability of labor in your area.

## *The Solution*

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The Docking Institute's University Center for Survey Research (UCSR) can conduct a labor skills study and labor availability study of your "labor basin." These studies can:

- Assess the labor supply, availability, and skill level of a region
- Assess the working status, salary levels, job types, and educational and training levels of labor pools
- Estimate the number of persons who are currently looking for new employment or are willing to change jobs or occupations for the "right" opportunity
- Estimate all eligible underemployed workers including:
  - Workers with training greater than is necessary to hold their current position*
  - Workers whose current wage is less than at their previous employers'*
- Estimate the number of employees potentially available for general occupational categories (manufacturing vs. service)
- Assess the willingness of people to commute for potential jobs
- Determine skill levels by occupational category and identify skill deficiencies of the labor force based on the opinions of employers

## *Why Conduct Labor Studies?*

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Businesses and site selectors need up-to-date labor information to make sound decisions.

Based on government labor data, firms considering locating or expanding can often conclude incorrectly that there is not a sufficient amount of qualified labor to meet their needs. Without a labor study, your region's labor force may be inaccurately characterized as being unable to meet the needs of those expanding or relocating because of low unemployment rates or absence of information documenting the quality of your area's labor force.