



## WILL COUNTY WORKFORCE INDICATOR November 2011

### WORKFORCE OVERVIEW

None of the recent national economic reports indicate a fast recovery from this recession either nationally or in any specific state. While the unemployment rate in Will County has declined since June of 2011, at 9.6% it is still higher than the lowest rate this year in April, when it dipped to 9.0%,

In a recent Crain's Chicago Business analysis of the factors most important to a healthy business climate, Illinois outranks the surrounding states of Wisconsin, Indiana, Missouri, and Iowa. The analysis indicates that Illinois has a larger pool of talented workers, bigger markets, more money for investment, and better transportation. The article goes on to say that these advantages outweigh the rising taxes and state budget deficits that have put Illinois in an unwelcome spotlight. The importance of the talent pool in Illinois is critical for Will County as well. With projections indicating that 63% of jobs in Illinois in the year 2018 will require educational attainment beyond high school, Will County is well positioned with 60% of its workforce currently possessing an educational level beyond high school.

Another positive note related to workforce trends was reported in the October Illinois Innovation Index newsletter. The newsletter noted that the 2011 Illinois Entrepreneurial survey respondents reported that despite the uncertainty of the global economy, many expected to expand their business, and nearly 65 percent indicated they planned to add employees in 2011.

### INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYERS DOING BUSINESS IN WILL COUNTY

**Quarterly Economic Update.** Do you need current information on the Will County economy? The Will County Economic Update provides local information on employment changes, wages and unemployment for the previous quarter. The 2011 3rd Quarter Will County Economic Update is available for download here: [3rd QUARTER ECONOMIC UPDATE](#).

**Support a Veteran by hiring one. Veteran's Tax Credit** – Illinois employers can earn an income tax credit for hiring Veterans of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom. The credit is 10 percent of the total wages paid to every qualified Veteran hired after January 1, 2008 up to \$1,200 annually. Veterans must work at least 185 days during the tax year for the employer to qualify for the Veterans Tax Credit. [CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD 2010 TAX CREDIT FORM.](#)

**Assistance for small businesses** – The Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Joliet Junior College recently expanded its consulting services as part of the Small Business Jobs Act. Consulting services in the areas of marketing, technology, human resources, business law among other areas can be accessed at the SBDC located at Joliet Junior College. [CLICK HERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES.](#)

**Did you know that you can post job openings for free?** Our **Electronic Job Board** can help you recruit candidates for your job openings. This job board is focused on local jobs for local residents. You can post jobs online and have resumes sent directly to you for review or have resumes pre-screened to meet your criteria. [CLICK HERE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS HOW POST FOR FREE ON OUR ELECTRONIC JOB BOARD.](#)



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