

Potlatch Displaced Worker Survey Results

DRAFT

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From early August to late October 2002, workers laid off due to the closing of the Brainerd Potlatch paper plant were surveyed to determine their plans, expectations, and current training and employment status. The surveying was done by Minnesota Department of Economic Security (MDES) staff at the Brainerd Workforce Center (WFC). Workers were contacted by mail and phone. Also, some completed the written mail-out survey at the Brainerd WFC when attending a Creative Job Search class. Analysis of the data and preparation of this report was provided by the Northwest Minnesota Regional Analyst of MDES Research and Statistics.

I. Response to Survey:

- 507 Responded
 - 125 completed self-administered written survey
 - 385 completed phone survey
- 123 Did not respond
- Response rate is 80.5% (507 out of 630)

II. Status of Respondents in the Labor Force

Figure 1 (below) displays the employment status of the workers that are in the labor force. Workers in the labor force are employed, self-employed, or seeking work. Figures 2 through 4 display the status of each of these three groups.

Not surprisingly, the vast majority of those in the labor force are job seekers. However, note that the employment status categories double count some respondents as follows:

- 46 of those looking for work were employed.
- Three of those employed were also self employed.¹
- One of those looking for work was self employed.

Thus, the overall count of respondents in the labor force is as follows:

- 313 are in the labor force.
- 162 of these are unemployed.
- 151 are employed or self-employed.

¹ That is, they work at a job and also own a business.

Figure 1: Employment Status of Respondents in the Labor Force

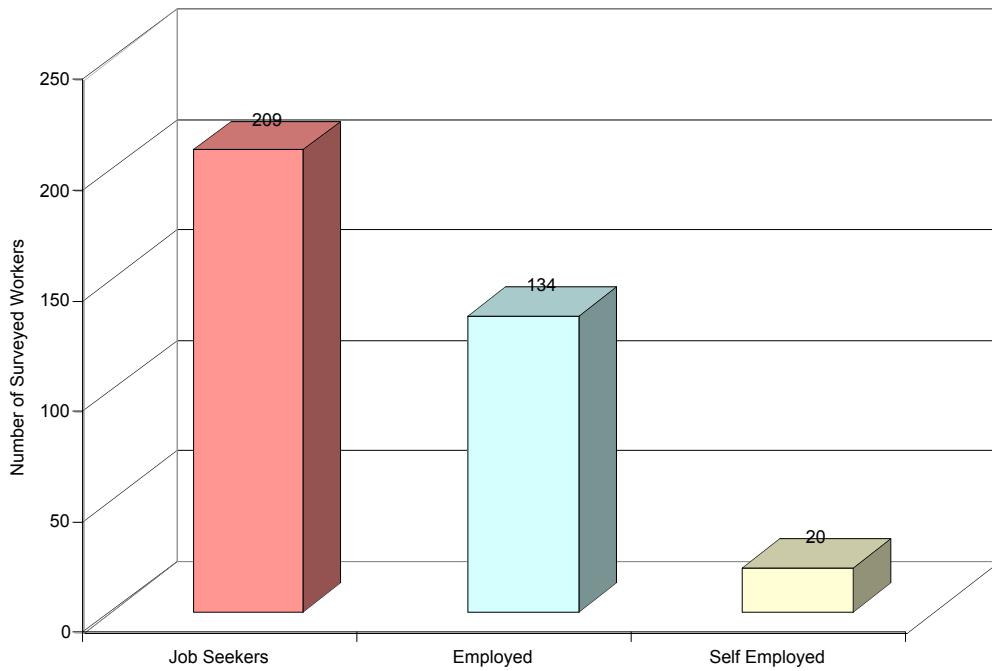


Figure 2: Status of Respondents Looking for Work

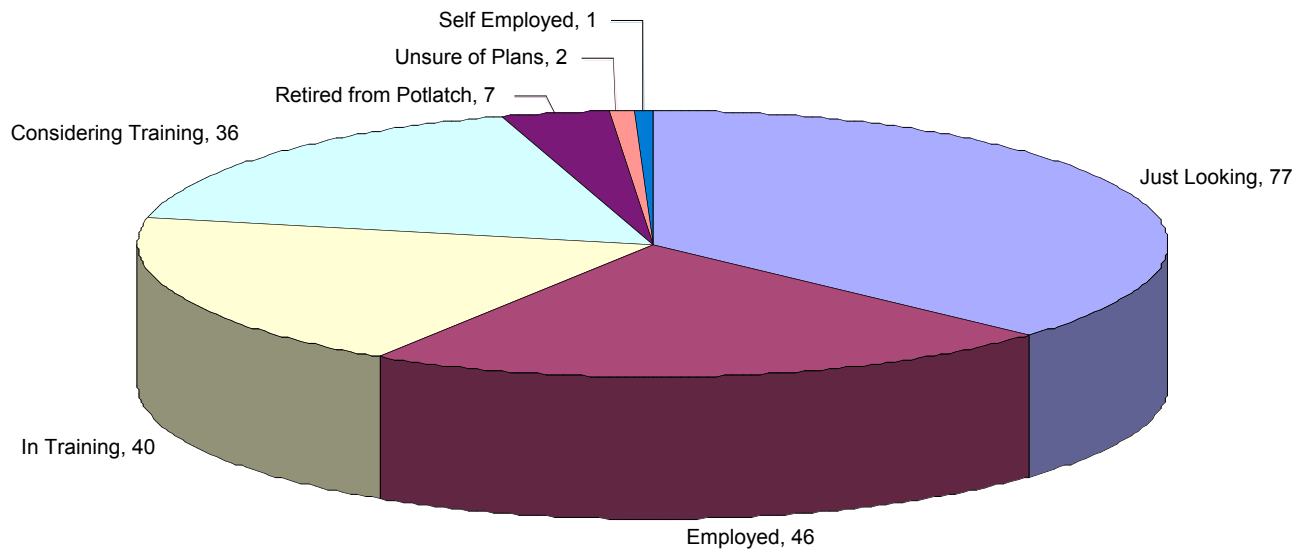


Figure 3: Status of Employed Respondents

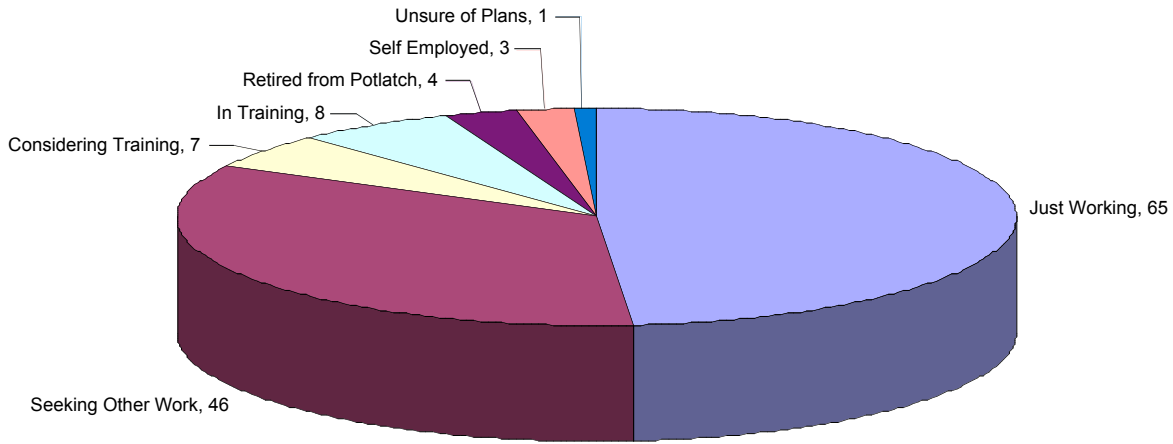
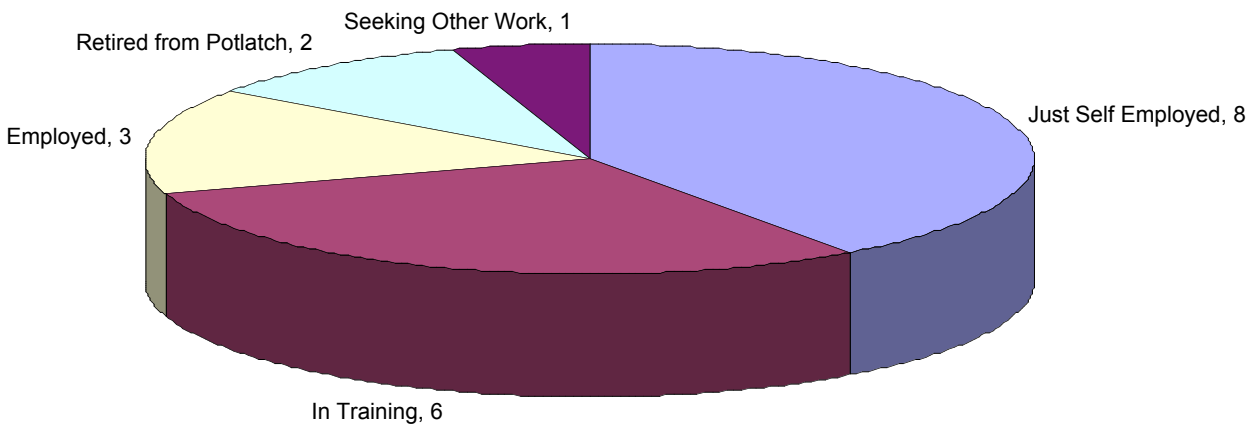


Figure 4: Status of Self-Employed

Respondents



III. Type of Work and Compensation Expectations of Job Seekers

Of the 507 survey respondents, 178 described their current situation as “I am looking for work.”² These respondents were asked their wage and benefit expectations and what type of work they are seeking. This section presents these results. It is also worth noting that 91 percent of those currently seeking a job plan to stay in the Brainerd Lakes area.

Figure 5 (below) displays the type of work being sought by those respondents looking for work in terms of categories that fit the open-ended responses to the survey. Note the following:

- Other includes all “types of work” indicated by less than 3 respondents.
- Results include more than one type of work for some respondents as follows:
 - 19 respondents listed two types of work.
 - 4 respondents listed three types of work.

² There were also 31 employed respondents who reported that they were “seeking other work,” but did not describe their current situation as “looking of work.” The 178 “currently looking” plus the 31 “employed, seeking other work” add up to the 209 “job seekers” in Figure 1.

Figure 5: Type of Work Being Sought

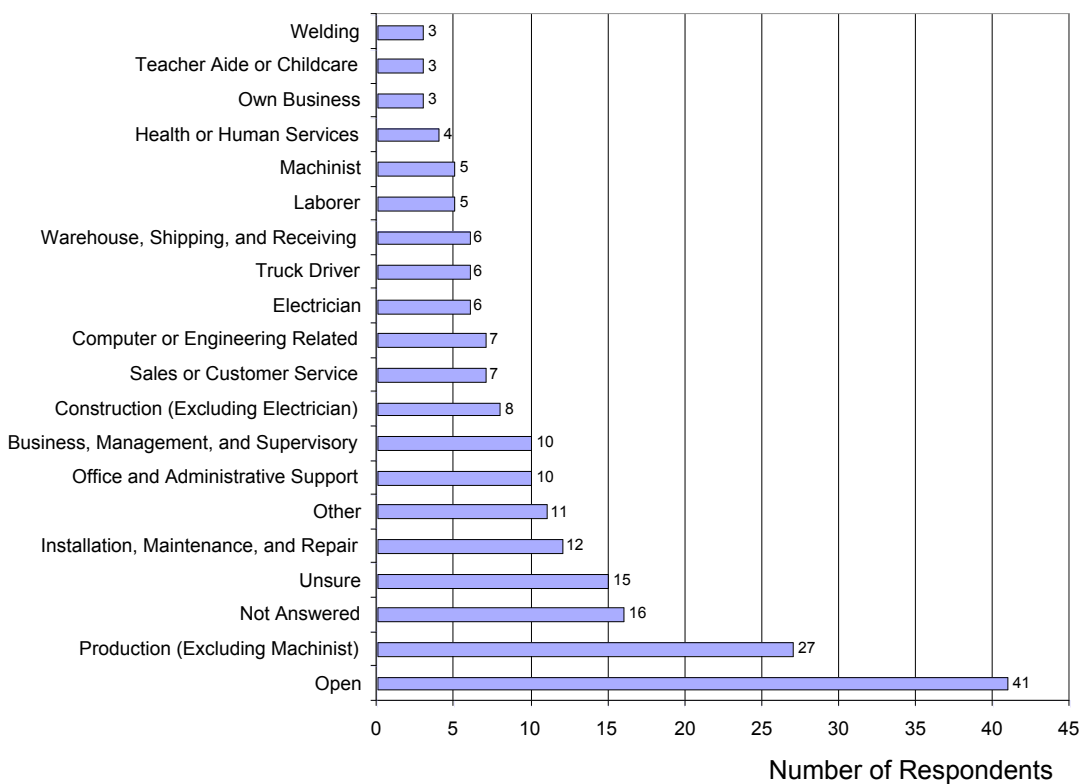


Figure 6: Wage Expectations of Job Seekers

Seekers

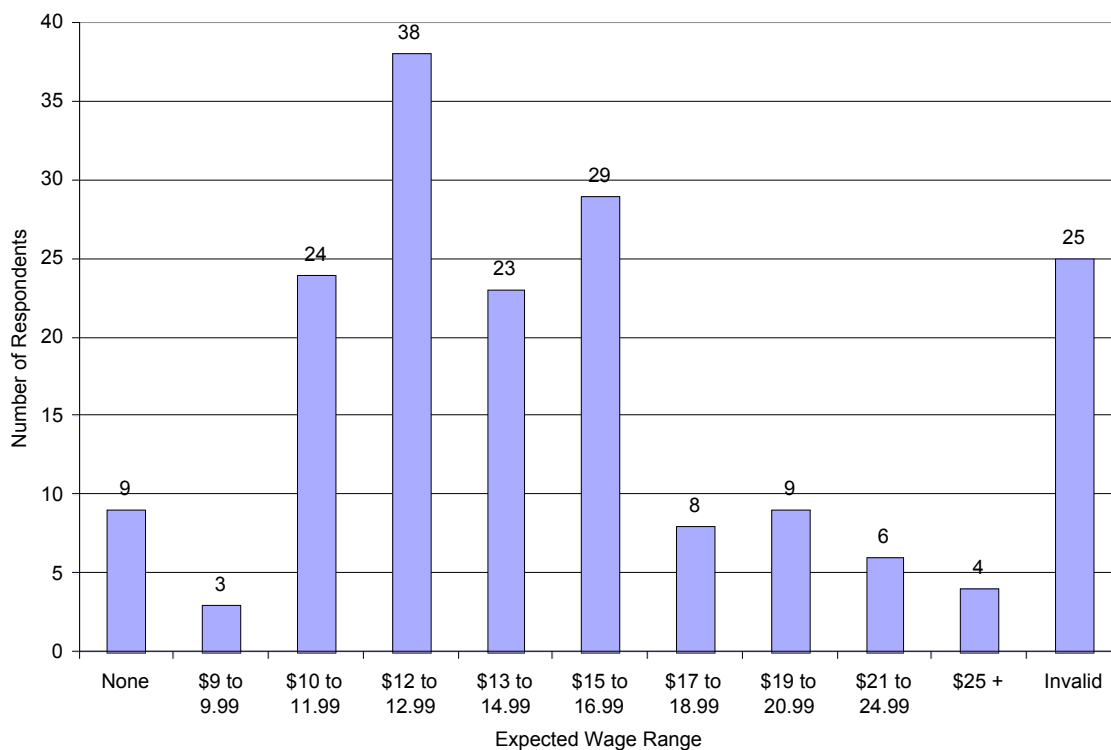
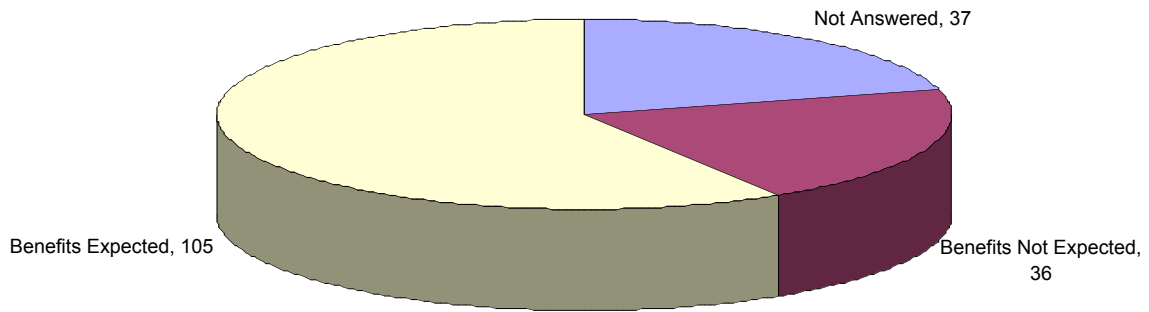


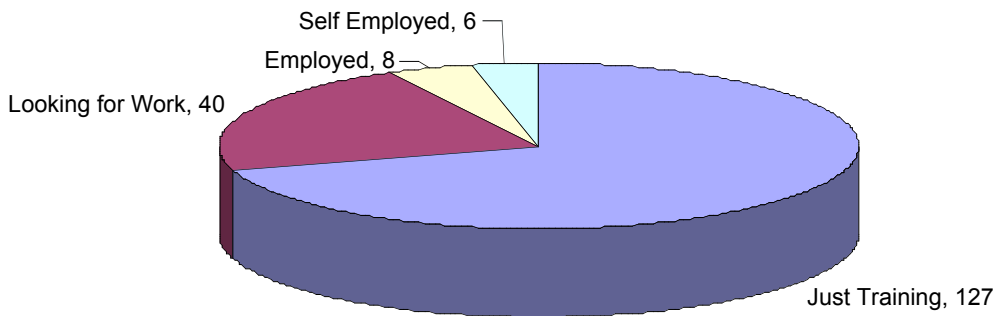
Figure 7: Benefits Expectations of Job Seekers



IV. Training Program Enrollment and Duration

Of the 507 survey respondents, 181 reported that they are pursuing training, or 36 percent of respondents. Figure 8 shows the employment status of those in training.

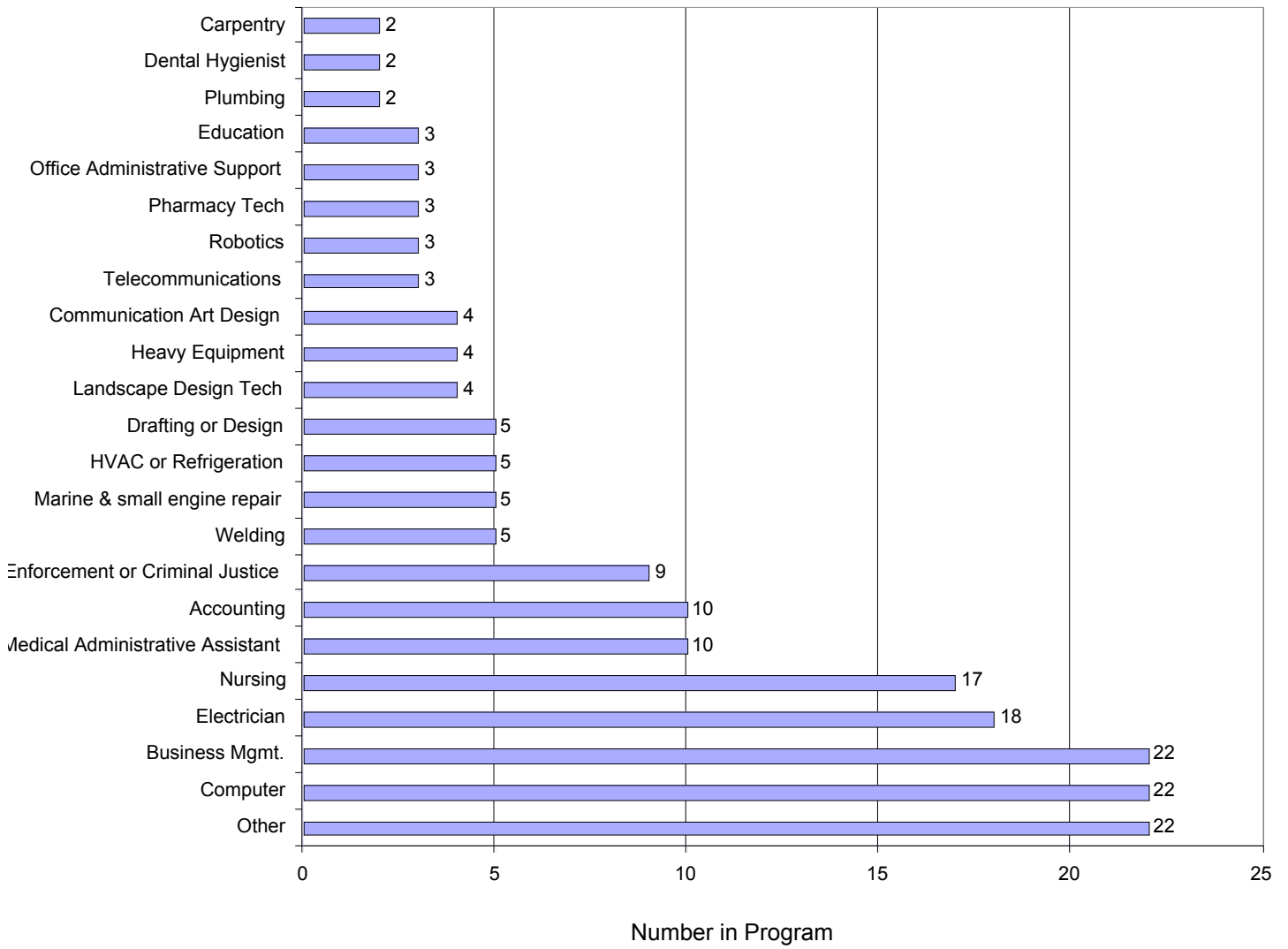
Figure 8: Employment Status of those in Training



In addition to the survey data, information on training application approval for Minnesota-administered dislocated worker training programs was analyzed. With this additional information, the number known to be pursuing training increases to 212, or 34 percent of the 630 total displaced workers. There may be additional workers that are pursuing training unknown to MDES staff. For example, if a worker that did not respond to the survey had moved outside of Minnesota and applied for TAA training in another state, this would not have been reported to MDES.

Figure 9 and the bulleted list below it show the types of training pursued by the workers known to be in training of a six month or longer duration.

Figure 9: Longer Than 6 Months Program Enrollment



The “Other” category of Figure 9 includes the 22 longer-than-six-month programs in which only one person is enrolled as follows:

- Architectural Design
- Auto Body
- Barber
- Biology Degree
- Bio-Medical Science
- Chef's Training
- Civil Engineer Tech
- Cosmetology
- Financial
- Graphic Image Tech
- Horticulture/Green house mgmt
- Human Services Administration
- Machine trades
- Natural resources
- Organizational Behavior
- Radiology Tech
- Short-term comp classes
- Speech Interpretation
- Teacher Recertification
- Transcription
- Unspecified 4-year degree
- Unspecified Master's Degree

The bulleted list below provides the types of training of shorter than six month duration. Program enrollment less than six months is as follows:

- Business Classes
- Commercial Driver License (4)
- Computer Skills or Certification (5)
- Construction Electrician Diploma
- Cosmetology
- Plumbing
- Real Estate & Appraisals (2)
- Surveying