



# EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING REPORTER

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For now, the new data from the past program year informs on how the WIOA Title I system as a whole was performing. Data are drawn from the Participant Individual Record Layout reporting system. Some historical data is drawn from the Workforce Investment Act Standard Record Data system, which preceded the PIRL through PY 2015.

## *Participation Decline*

The number of program exiters, meaning those for whom service delivery has ceased, continued to decline across the WIOA programs. The total exiter count for the adult, dislocated worker and youth programs dropped to 821,073, down from 935,710 in PY2017 and from more than 1.3 million in PY2014. Among this count, there were 523,890 exiters from the adult program, about 15 percent fewer over the year; 341,997 from the dislocated worker program, down 9 percent; and 80,963 from the youth program, down 2 percent. States reported nearly 3.5million exiters from the Wagner-Peyser Employment Service, down 18 percent from PY 2017. Wagner-Peyser Employment Service participation is much higher than that of the other programs, as it includes self-service customers and many who never set foot in an American Job Center. Wagner-Peyser enrollment can be triggered by signing up for state job boards. The share of WIOA adult exiters who were employed at enrollment rose by 1.1 percentage point over the year to 22.1 percent. This was the third consecutive year in which employment at enrollment became more common. Close to a quarter of adults received some type of public assistance. More than half of adult exiters fell into one of the program's priority groups, typically the low-income qualification. The average preprogram quarterly earnings level of this population was \$7,297, which had increased by \$106 over the year. This had dipped slightly in PY 2017. Fifty-six percent of WIOA adults received individualized career services, such as case management or job search counseling. Twenty-nine percent of participants in any career services were referred to employment, which was down by 3.6 percentage points over the year.

## *Training Trend*

Sixteen percent of adult exiters received training as a WIOA service. This was the second significant annual increase in two years. Only 11 percent of adult exiters had received training in PY 2016. That rose to 14.1 percent in PY2017. Close to two-thirds of those who received training participated in occupational skills training. About 14 percent participated in on-the-job training and just as many participated in skills upgrading. The average duration of training held steady at 26 weeks. Transportation and material moving occupations represented 19 percent of all of the training enrollments. Eighteen percent were in health care practitioner and technician occupations. An additional 17 percent of adult exiters who had participated in training had done so for health care support occupations. Among adult program exiters, the

median earnings level in the second quarter after exit was \$6,169, which had increased significantly from \$5,531 for PY 2017, but was still lower than the preprogram earnings level. The median earnings among adult exiters who received training was \$7,214. Among WIOA dislocated worker program exiters, 22.4 percent had been referred to the program through the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment program.

RESEAs select unemployment insurance claimants for face-to-face services in American Job Centers. This was up from 13.1 percent in PY 2017, which is the first year for which information on these referrals became available. Twenty-seven percent of dislocated workers were not UI claimants (or exhaustees). This was consistent with the prior year, but up by 9.7 percentage points from PY 2014. Preprogram average quarterly earnings among dislocated workers rose by \$367 over the year to \$11,235. Almost 61 percent of dislocated worker program exiters had received individualized career services. Just over 11 percent received training. This had declined slightly each year for three years in a row, from 13.6 percent in PY 2017.

As with adult program exiters, occupational skills training was the most common form of training among dislocated workers. The average duration of training was longer, at just over 32 weeks, for the dislocated worker program than for the adult program. For dislocated workers, transportation and material moving was the most common occupational group for training, followed by computer and mathematical occupations.

The median quarterly earnings in the second quarter after exit for dislocated workers was \$7,377.

Two-thirds of dislocated worker exiters earned a credential through the program.

The WIOA youth program continued to trend older, with 59.6 percent of exiters in PY2018 enrolling between the ages of 19 and 24. That's up from 50.5 percent in PY2016, the first year for which 22 to 24-year-olds could be included in the count. Meanwhile, the share of youth program participants ages 14 to 15 became close to non-existent, at 1.4 percent. These youngest of work-eligible teens made up 5.5 percent of program exiters in PY2014.

### *Youth Program*

Following the age trend, the share of WIOA youth with educational attainment at or above a high school diploma or equivalency certificate continued to rise, reaching 45.1 percent. Still, fewer than 5 percent had any exposure to postsecondary education, which is little changed over the past three years.

Close to 84 percent of youth program exiters had been out of school at enrollment. This has risen dramatically over the WIOA years, from under 50 percent in PY 2014. Employment at enrollment among youth program participants continued to rise, reaching 18.3 percent. Most qualified as low-income individuals and 56 percent were categorized as being basic skills deficient. The delivery patterns of youth program elements have been shifting over time, to some degree reflecting the changing population and positioning of the program. For example, the share of program exiters who had received tutoring, study skills or dropout prevention services fell by 3.4 percentage points over the year to 34.4 percent. These services were delivered to 46.1

percent of WIOA youth in PY 2014. About 15 percent of WIOA youth participants received alternative school or dropout recover services, which has increased steadily.

Close to half of youth exiters in PY2018received supportive services and 46.8 percent received paid or unpaid work experiences. These two most common program elements are little changed overtime. Close to 33 percent of youth exiters had received occupational skills training in PY 2018, which was near level over the year, bu tup from18 percent in PY 2014. The average duration of participation among WIOA youth participants was 45 weeks.

The median quarterly earnings of WIOA youth in their second quarter after exit was \$3,326. This had increased by \$285 over the year. Just over 62 percent earned credentials.