

# Clinton completes inventory of area workforce

*By Steven Martens*

Laborshed study provides business recruitment tool

CLINTON, Iowa — A new laborshed study of the Clinton region released Tuesday shows the area has enough available labor to meet the needs of any kind of business, and especially those needing production, construction and operations workers.

The study, compiled by Iowa Workforce Development's Strategic Workforce Initiatives Unit, shows that of a total labor force in the region of 223,850 workers, 25,932 were either willing to accept employment, such as people who are unemployed or recent retirees, or willing to switch jobs.

The largest percentage of those workers, 5,608, were in production, construction, operating, maintenance and materials handling, followed by professionals and paraprofessionals with 5,247 and clerical/administration with 3,765, said Steve Ames, president and CEO of the Clinton Regional Development Corp.

"There's enough there for almost any business we want to bring in," Tom Determann, chairman of the board for development group, said.

Ames said the study is the more recent one done for the Clinton area since 1999. It was needed to provide potential new employers or current employers considering expansion how much labor is available locally and what the workforce is trained to do.

In addition to detailing the availability and training of the local workforce, the study also addresses issues such as what kinds of benefits potential employees would like to see and how far they are willing to commute to work.

The surveys for the study were conducted in October and November 2005, Ames said.

He said the study is something that should be done about every two years to make sure the information is current.

"If you put 1999 data in front of people, they're just going to laugh at you," he said.

He said the information can be broken down to address the specific requirements of any type of business.

"This is just a critical piece of information to help us market this region," he said.

Dennis Lauver, president of the Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce, said the study provides well-documented information about the quantity and quality of the workforce in the Clinton region.

Ames said his agency plans to make the information available on its Web site, [www.clintondevelopment.com](http://www.clintondevelopment.com).

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