

# Dakota County Workforce Investment Board News and Notes

## October 2003 Edition, Vol. 1-8

*Mission: Providing comprehensive, professional, and timely services for jobseekers and employers.*

---

**Welcome to the Dakota County Workforce Investment Board's (WIB) News and Notes. This newsletter's purpose is to provide you with an update of workforce and economic development activities.**

---

### **Upcoming Events**

*Dakota County WIB Meeting – Nov. 21 at the Northern Service Center, West St. Paul*

---

### **County Unemployment Rate 4.1% in September**

This compares to 4.4% for the state and 5.8% nationally. Numbers are not seasonally adjusted.

<http://data.mnwfc.org/lmi/laus/detail.asp?geog=2704000037&adjust=0>

---

### **Jump Start Slated for January 8th**

“January Jump Start” an event designed for the unemployed seeking work will be Jan. 8, 2004 at the Dakota County Technical College. First offered in Jan. 2003, the event will feature a day of motivational speakers and workshops on a variety of topics. Look in upcoming newsletters for more information.

---

### **How Long Do You Have to Work to Buy a Big Mac?**

In Nairobi it's 185 minutes; in Kiev it's 84 minutes; in New York it's 12 minutes; and it's 10 minutes in Tokyo

*Information from BusinessWeek. Methodology – product price divided by weighted average net hourly pay across 12 occupations*

---

### **France vs. U.S.**

According to BusinessWeek, in France, the average annual hours worked per employed person was 1,459 hours. In the U.S., the figure was 1,815 hours. Data is from 2002.

---

### **How Things Change – 1977 vs. 2002**

The Families and Work Institute recently published its “National Study of the Changing Workforce.” The institute has data comparing many components between 1977 to 2002. Some of the interesting findings include:

- ❑ Proportion of married wage and salaried employees who live in dual-earner households was 66% in 1977 compared to 78% in 2002.

- ❑ Combined work hours for dual-earner couples with children went from 81 hours per week in 1977 to 91 hours in 2002
- ❑ Combined time spouses spend with children on workdays increased from 5.2 hours in 1977 to 6.2 hours in 2002
- ❑ Dads spend 1.3 hours on workdays on themselves compared to 2.1 hours 25 years ago
- ❑ Moms spend .9 hours on themselves today compared to 1.6 hours in 1977
- ❑ 35% of workers say they have provided care for a relative or in-law 65 years or older in the past year
- ❑ Approximately 20% of employed people work for themselves

[www.changingworkforce.org](http://www.changingworkforce.org)

---

### **Look to Your WorkForce Center For...**

**... a Job** - In Dakota County, WorkForce Centers are located in Burnsville and West St. Paul. Each center features “resource rooms” equipped with computers, fax machines, and knowledgeable staff to help you write your resume, search for jobs and submit applications. WorkForce Centers also have special classes on resume writing, job searching, and interviewing.

[www.mnwfc.org/dakota](http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota)

**... Great Employees** - There are numerous ways we can help including posting jobs, setting up special interviewing sessions, assisting you with special accommodations and much more. [www.mnwfc.org/dakota](http://www.mnwfc.org/dakota)

**... Help Starting a Business** - 800 people in Minnesota will be selected to get an array of services to help them start a business via “Project Gate.” To apply, stop in at the West St. Paul WorkForce Center or go to [www.projectgate.com](http://www.projectgate.com). Additionally, we have an Entrepreneur Guide available to connect you with resources and classes in the area. Call 651 554-5633 for a copy.

---

### **The Voice of Business on the WIB**

Members of the WorkForce Investment Board (WIB) oversee employment programs in the County. More than 51% of the 21-member board is from the private sector. LaDonna Boyd, Dakota Electric, is Chair of the Board. Marcia Rash, Wells Fargo in Hastings, is Vice-Chair.

---

**Contact Mark Jacobs at 651 554-5622 or via e-mail at [mark.jacobs@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:mark.jacobs@co.dakota.mn.us) if you have questions about contents of this newsletter.**