



How To Guide:

What proportion of my industry's workforce is age 55 or older?

Knowing the demographics of a given industry can prove important for many college faculty and staff. For instance, the age distribution of an industry can provide some indication as to whether companies in an industry are likely to face mass retirements as the baby boom generation retires. It can also provide some indication about the ages of students involved in incumbent worker training. In order to access this information, we will use Quarterly Workforce Indicators data set developed collaboratively by the US Census Bureau and State Labor Market Information agencies.

1. Go to the US Census Bureau's Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics website at: <http://lehd.ces.census.gov/>
2. Under the 'Applications' links on the left column, click on 'QWI Explorer' (Quarterly Workforce Indicators).
3. On the QWI Explorer tool, select your state. In this instance, we will select Tennessee.
4. Under 'Filters/Aggregations', select your sub-state geography. In this instance, we will select Rutherford County, TN and then click OK.
5. Once you have selected your sub-state geography, select your choice of industry. In the pop-up menu, in the menu that says 'Industry Detail Level', select NAICS 3-digit Subsectors. Once you have done this, select NAICS 336 'Transportation Equipment Manufacturing' and then click OK.
6. In the table at the bottom of the QWI Explorer tool, scroll down to the most recent quarter. In this instance, the most recent quarter is the third quarter of 2014.
7. Sum the total of the number of workers in each age cohort. In this example, we can see that there are roughly 15,700 workers in Rutherford County's Transportation Equipment Manufacturing industry.
8. To answer the question of how many workers are aged 55 and older and therefore likely to retire in the next decade, sum the age cohorts for ages 55 to 64 and ages 65 to 99. In this instance, approximately 1,900 workers in the county's transportation equipment manufacturing industry are aged 55 and older. We can therefore see that roughly 12 percent of this industry's workforce are aged 55 and older.



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