WORKER EXPERIENCE

LABOR PERSPECTIVES FROM THE SUPPLY SIDE

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TRACKING THE ECONOMY OF THE NINTH DISTRICT

WORKERS
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HEAR FROM WORKERS?

Dual Mandate

- Maximum Employment
- Stable Prices
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HEAR FROM WORKERS?

Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (US)
(Thousands)

Source, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Job Openings, Hires, Quits, Layoffs
ENGAGING THE SUPPLY SIDE OF LABOR

LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

WORKERS
ENGAGING THE SUPPLY SIDE OF LABOR

- 217 respondents
- Rural areas in western Minnesota and across North Dakota
- 90% White
  7% American Indian
  5% Hispanic/Latino/a/x
  2% African American
- 80% Prime working age
- 85% Personal earnings of less than $50,000
- Mainly from Social Services, Education, and Healthcare occupations
• Employed individuals are also moving through the labor market

• Workers are looking to make a broad range of occupational changes

• Workers faced a variety of challenges making the changes they want

• Household finances are feeling the pressure from heightened prices
LABOR MARKET MOBILITY
WHAT WE’VE LEARNED: MARKET MOBILITY

Desired Occupational Changes
(Multiple responses allowed)

- Advance in current job: 25%
- Job with better pay: 20%
- Job with more flexibility: 15%
- Job with better benefits: 10%
- A job in a different field: 10%
- A job with remote work option: 5%
- More hours at current job: 5%
- Find employment: 3%
- Find permanent employment: 2%
- Find training programs: 2%

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
WHAT WE’VE LEARNED: MARKET MOBILITY

Difficulty making occupational changes
(Percentages weighted by income bracket)

$25,000 - $49,999
$10,000 - $24,999
$1 - $9,999

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
Challenges faced when making occupational changes
(Multiple responses allowed)

- Need new skills
- Available jobs do not pay enough
- Need certifications
- Difficulties finding daycare
- Difficulties affording daycare
- Schedules are difficult to keep
- Jobs are too far
- Need computer knowledge
- Need new skills but have no time
- Available jobs do not offer benefits
- Criminal record
- Fear of losing benefits
- Need computer/internet access
- Need skills but don’t know how
- Immigration status

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
HOUSEHOLD DYNAMICS
Sources of income used recently by respondents (Multiple responses allowed)

- Regular income from work
- Credit and loan
- Savings
- Borrowing from friends and family
- SNAP
- Stimulus payment
- Unemployment benefits

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
WHAT ARE WORKERS CONCERNED WITH?

Respondents concerns
(Multiple responses allowed)

- Paying utility bills: 35%
- Healthcare coverage/cost: 30%
- Covid exposure: 20%
- Paying for housing: 25%
- Paying for food: 15%
- Caring for young family members: 10%
- Health issues: 0%
- Caring for elderly relatives: 5%
- Transportation concerns: 0%

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
PURCHASING POWER COMPARED TO A YEAR AGO

Purchasing power
(Percentages weighted by income bracket)

- $50,000 - $74,999
- $25,000 - $49,999
- $10,000 - $24,999
- $1 - $9,999

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
Experiences with higher prices
(Percentages weighted by consumers in each category)

- Fuel: Prices slightly higher (20%), Prices a lot higher (80%)
- Food at home: Prices slightly higher (40%), Prices a lot higher (60%)
- Food away from home: Prices slightly higher (50%), Prices a lot higher (50%)
- Electricity: Prices slightly higher (50%), Prices a lot higher (50%)
- Clothing: Prices slightly higher (60%), Prices a lot higher (40%)
- Medication: Prices slightly higher (70%), Prices a lot higher (30%)
- Rent: Prices slightly higher (50%), Prices a lot higher (50%)
- Food at home: Prices slightly higher (40%), Prices a lot higher (60%)
- Food away from home: Prices slightly higher (50%), Prices a lot higher (50%)
- Electricity: Prices slightly higher (50%), Prices a lot higher (50%)
- Clothing: Prices slightly higher (60%), Prices a lot higher (40%)
- Medication: Prices slightly higher (70%), Prices a lot higher (30%)
- Rent: Prices slightly higher (50%), Prices a lot higher (50%)

- Prices slightly higher
- Prices a lot higher
- No price changes
WHAT WE’VE LEARNED

Responses to higher prices
(Percentages weighted by consumers in each category)

- Medicine
- Electricity
- Fuel
- Food at home
- Clothing
- Food away from home

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
Most respondents are moving through the labor market despite having solid employment.

A good portion is concerned with being able to pay for basic needs like utilities, healthcare and housing.

COVID-19 exposure remains a concern for many.

Household finances are complex.

Individuals’ purchasing power is being challenged by inflation.
THANK YOU!

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