

**ANALYSIS OF WORKFORCE REQUIREMENTS AND LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS****IN THE SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY IN LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI**

U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration

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**Project Summary:** The purpose of this study was to examine (1) the demand for production workers by shipyards in Louisiana and Mississippi, with a particular emphasis on the manpower requirements for seven occupations (welders, pipefitters, shipfitters, marine drafters, electricians, electrical engineers, and seamen); (2) the supply of production workers and numbers of job seekers under various assumptions with regard to such factors as new qualified entrants, internal labor markets, transfers from closely-related occupations and industries, numbers of apprentices and other training graduates, geographical areas of potential supply within Louisiana, Mississippi, and the broader Gulf Coast area, and shipbuilding production workers dislocated from U.S. Navy shipyards around the country; and (3) the factors contributing to any current or expected gaps in production worker demand and supply, including competition for workers with other industries (e.g., petro/chemical and construction industries); skill training issues (e.g., capacity, access, enrollment, numbers of graduates, inadequate or excessive training requirements); wage offerings; labor turnover; recruitment practices; labor market intermediary effectiveness; and availability of affordable housing; and transportation issues.

The results and recommendations of this short-term study were based on (1) site visits to Louisiana and Mississippi shipyards and (2) statistical analysis of available public and private sources of information, with particular attention to labor market information based on Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) methodologies and procedures. Site visits were conducted by project staff to the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Mississippi, during which interviews were conducted with officials at seven shipyards, as well as with state and local workforce development officials, union officials, and other experts.

**Report:**

J. Trutko and B. Barnow, *Workforce Requirements of the Shipbuilding Industry in Louisiana and Mississippi*, James Bell Associates, Inc., prepared for the Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, 1999.

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