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Employee Benefits in West Virginia Ahead of U.S. Average

West Virginia private sector workers fare better than their national and regional counterparts in terms of being offered employee benefits, according to a new report issued by WORKFORCE West Virginia.

Nationally, 60 percent of all private sector workers have access to retirement benefits, while 59 percent do in the South Atlantic region; West Virginia slightly edges these rates at 61 percent. Similarly, 70 percent of all private sector workers nationally and 71 percent of those in the South Atlantic states have access to medical care benefits, while 75 percent of West Virginia workers are offered some form of medical insurance.

Employee Benefits in West Virginia: 2005-2006, prepared by the Research, Information and Analysis Division of WORKFORCE West Virginia, presents this information in detail for all major industry sectors in the state's economy. The report is available online at www.wvbep.org/bep/lmi/benefitsurvey/menu.htm and is the product of a survey conducted of the state's employer community in January and February 2006.

Survey results span a gamut of workplace benefits including medical, dental, vision and life insurance, vacation, sick and holiday leave, retirement, child care and others. Results are comparable between industry sectors and among employer-size classes, small through large. Complete information is available for both full and part-time workers.

Natural resources and mining (97%), the information sector (88%) and, to a lesser extent, manufacturing industries (69%) rated highest in the percent of companies offering medical benefits. The percentages of employees offered medical insurance were highest in manufacturing (91%), financial services and natural resources and mining (both 88%), and private educational and health services (82%).

For retirement, natural resources and mining (66%), information (63%) and financial activities (52%) ranked highest in percent of companies offering benefits. Those with the higher percentages of employees offered retirement benefits were natural resources and mining (86%), financial activities (84%) and the information sector (83%).

Comparative national data are taken from the report *Employee Benefits in Private Industry in the United States, March 2005* published by the National Compensation Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and available online at www.bls.gov/ncs/ebs/home.htm.