

Veteran's Newsletter

February 2009

Welcome to the February edition of the Jefferson County Workforce Center's Veteran's Newsletter. If you have a subject you would like to see covered here, please email Dave Alred at dalred@jeffco.us.

Sectors adding jobs in 2009

By Doug McPherson

Even with Colorado joining the nation in a recession, there are opportunities here in a select group of employment sectors.

Yes, Colorado will lose jobs for the third time this decade and the seventh time since record keeping began in 1939, predicts Richard Wobbekind, associate dean of external relations at the University of Colorado-Boulder Leeds School of Business.

The state's unemployment rate likely will rise to 6.4 percent, approaching a 20 year high, with most job losses in construction, retail and wholesale trade.

However, the good news is that unemployment will remain up to 1.5 percentage points below the national jobless rate, he said.

"Don't let the difficult economic news get you too far down. Downturns don't last forever," Wobbekind said. Be persistent, upgrade your skills and you'll be more confident and more marketable.

Take those skills to the numerous job openings expected in Colorado in 2009. The places to look: education, health care, energy and government.

Education holds promise, said Patricia Silverstein, an economist with Development Research Partners in Littleton. "In a down economy, many people go back to school. So, any teaching or training experience might be welcomed at area schools, technical colleges and universities."

Silverstein continues to see strength in the health care industry, as well. Wobbekind agrees health care will have openings and government will too.

Energy may be hiring as well, renewables continue to be an industry that the country is very interested in. So, we might see some research and development jobs in this sector.

The natural resources and mining sector continues to have some growth in certain areas of the state, particularly on the Western Slope.

The Governor's proposed \$12 million job creation, job training and business assistance package hopefully will bring growth to the aerospace, bioscience, technology and tourism sectors.

Other Items of Interest:

Bailout Bill Extends Tax Breaks for Individuals

The landmark legislation enacted Oct. 3, 2008 to help rescue the U.S. markets and the economy also contained a bundle of income tax breaks for individuals.

The biggest ones are known as “extenders” they are popular tax breaks that might seem permanent to most taxpayers, but actually must be renewed every year or two . Stuffed inside the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 are more than 100 tax provisions worth \$150 billion in tax benefits. Consult your tax preparer for further details.

Security Clearance Jobs for Military

Did you know when leaving the military, you can re-activate your clearance for up to 24 months without having to start the process over again? Don't let your security clearance go to waste and use it to find the hottest jobs in the industry. Search security clearance jobs on Military.com.

Beware of Refund Anticipation Loans

Refund Anticipation Loans (RAL) are short term loans that some of the national tax service companies offer during the time that it takes for the tax preparer to receive the refund check from the IRS, usually two to three weeks. Military personnel on active duty and their family members should be aware that Public Law 109-364 protects them by capping interest on a RAL at 36 percent APR. The lender is required to ask their military status. The Better Business Bureau (BBB) wants servicemembers to know that it pays to shop around and look for a good deal. Consumers can check out a tax preparer's record of integrity and performance free of charge with BBB Reliability Reports, available online at the Better Business Bureau.

We are here for you !

The U.S. Department of Labor and the Jefferson County Workforce Center place great emphasis on service to veterans. Especially to recently separated veterans and to those with a service connected disability or some other barrier to employment. If you feel you have a situation that is limiting your job readiness or hindering your job search or would just like some assistance with your job search, please call the Veteran Employment Representative at 303 271-4728 or email David Alred at dalred@jeffco.us. He is located at the Laramie Building, 3500 Illinois Street, Golden, Co.