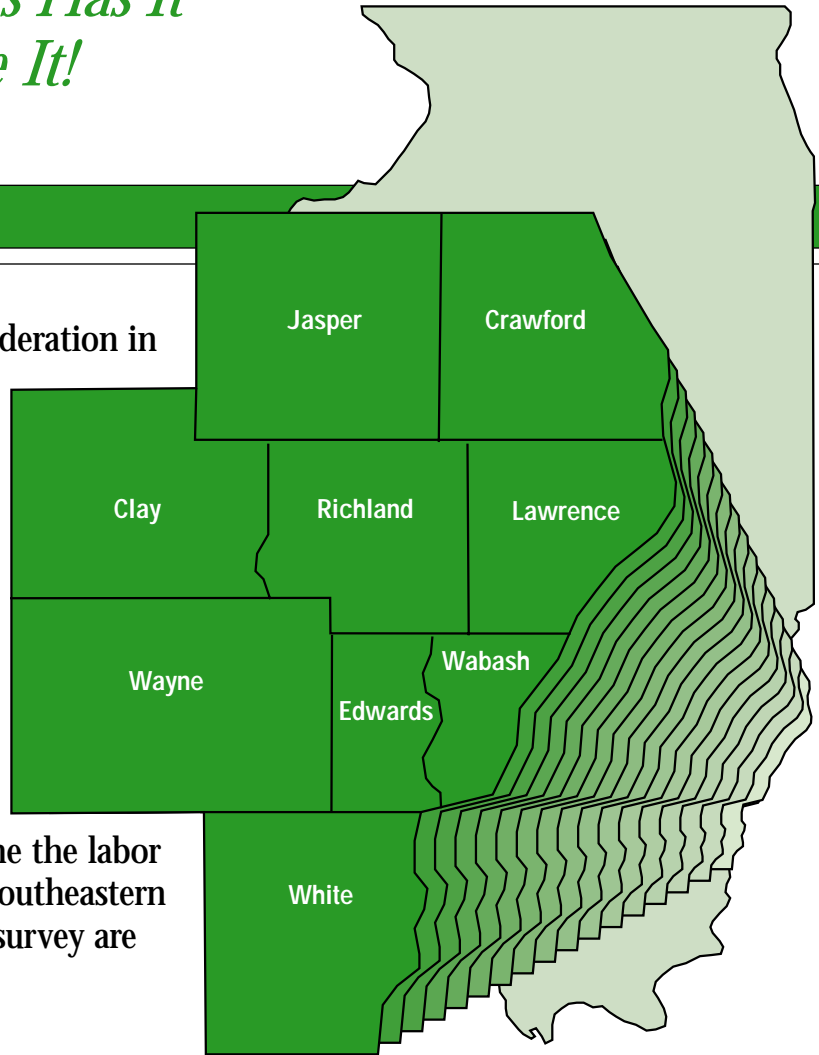


Quality Workforce

*Southeastern Illinois Has It
and Can Prove It!*

Labor quality is an important consideration in the site selection process. An area's workforce and its skills will ultimately determine your company's ability to respond to competitive opportunities and contribute to the "bottom line."

With this in mind, AmerenCIPS, along with development representatives from the region, commissioned an independent survey of local business managers to determine the labor quality of a nine county region in Southeastern Illinois. Some of the results of this survey are contained in this brochure.



FOR A COMPLETE COPY OF THE SURVEY RESULTS . . .

Contact: **The Economic Development Team**

P .O. Box 66149, MC 350

St. Louis, MO 63166-6149

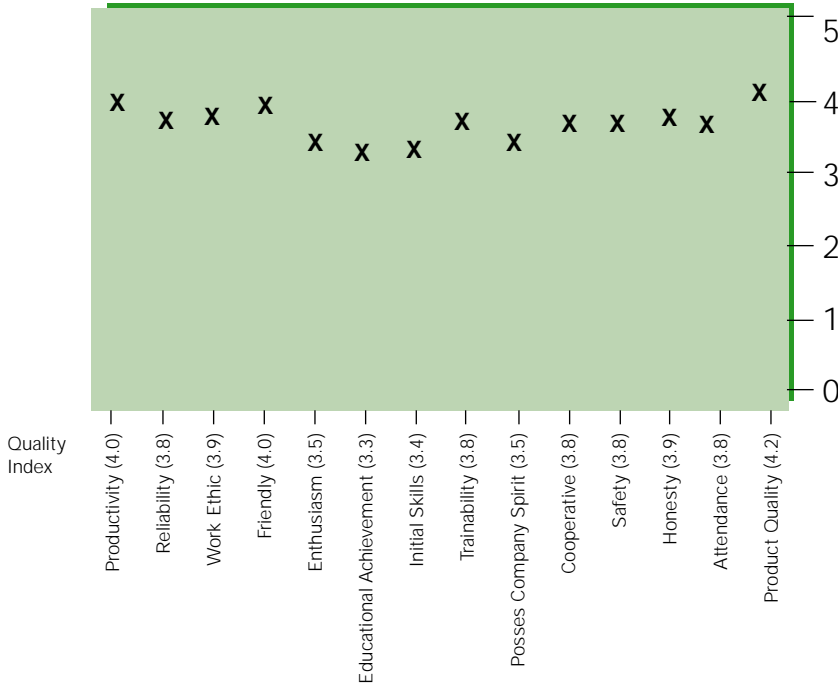
Toll-Free: 800-981-9409

<http://www.ameren.com/ed>



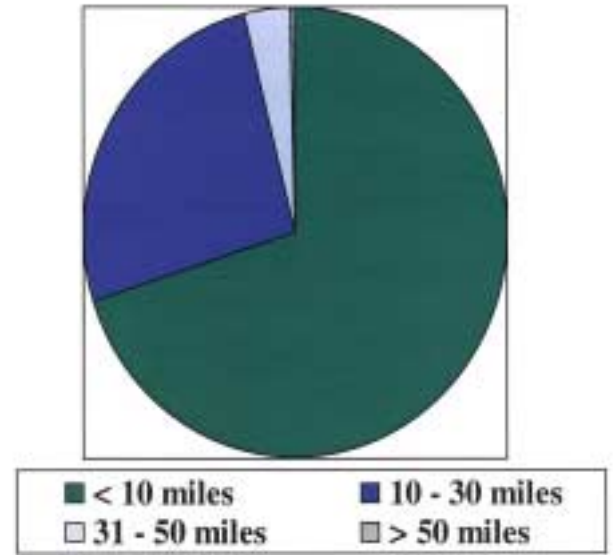
LABOR QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS

(scale 0-5: 5 is excellent)



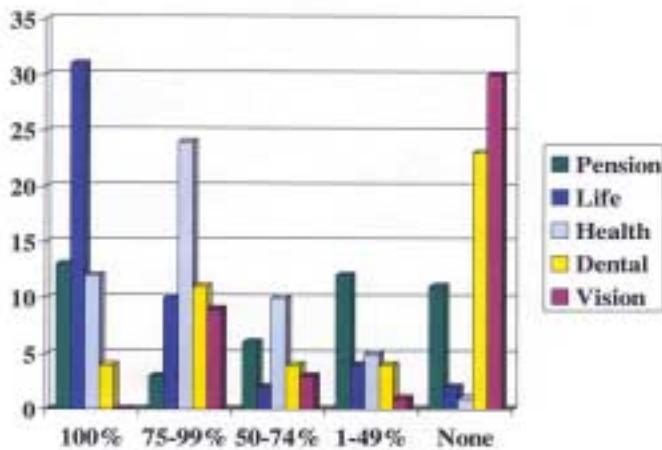
Key Points: Productive, friendly workforce with special recognition for product quality.

COMMUTING PATTERNS



Key Points: A large workforce will commute between 10-30 miles for employment positions.

EMPLOYER BENEFIT PLANS



Key Points:

- Seventy-five percent (75%) of employers provide health insurance and Pension Plan benefits
- Ninety-five percent (95%) of employers provide group life insurance
- A salary reduction plan (401K) is offered by 81% of the employers
- Employees are provided an average of 9.2 paid holidays per year

OCCUPATIONAL WAGE SURVEY

	Average Starting Wage	Statewide Starting Wage
1. Assembly Worker	5.40	7.54
2. Production Worker	15.15	9.16
3. Electronic Technician	10.76	11.31
4. Operator, General Machine	6.00	7.09
5. General Laborer	5.15	9.90
6. Clerk/Receptionist	7.12	9.63
7. Word Processing Operator	8.21	8.76
8. Warehouse Worker	8.56	9.26
9. Janitor	5.40	5.97
10. Welder, Advanced	8.31	11.12
11. Office Manager	9.25	9.63
12. Fork Lift Driver	5.15	7.46
13. Purchasing Clerk	8.07	10.20

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security

Key Points: AmerenCIPS area workforce is wage competitive with the rest of the country