

Williston Economic Development

Regardless of the recent downturn in the oil and gas cycle, Williston has weathered the storm fairly well. This is due in part to its proximity to the Bakken “sweet spot” and our expanded infrastructure development efforts to address capacity.

During our time of rapid growth between 2010-2015 our inability to meet infrastructure demands (housing, basic services) caused the oil and gas industry to seek employment options and growth opportunities outward along the edges of the Bakken. As the pace of industry growth slowed, we saw a migration inwards toward the sweet spot and a killing of the edges.

The slowdown has increased our ability as a community to address the infrastructure challenges and build capacity. As the environment becomes more competitive we are confident we will retain the increased capacity in oil and gas employment.

As always with the nature of commodities, the oil and gas industry will continue to go through these up and down cycles. The industry has survived every one of these cycles, coming out stronger through innovation and optimization. Bottom line: Industry activity is all but guaranteed to rebound.

The oil and gas industry understands this and it is evident in their current actions. They understand the challenges of re-attracting an employee once they have been let go. The goal is to retain young employees and keep layoffs at a minimum by offering early retirement packages to senior employees. The mass exodus of senior experience is going to lead to a dramatic increase of skillset training for younger and new hire employees.

The additional growth in our primary sector is therefore going to increase further demand for skillset training in our other industries. As William Furth with Policom explained in a recent seminar: “When a community increases the number of high-wage primary industry jobs, a “force” pulls up the bottom rung of the economic ladder lifting all through a series of wage and skill steps. This “force” causes part-time low paying retail and service jobs to fold into full-time jobs at higher wage levels and with fringe benefits.”

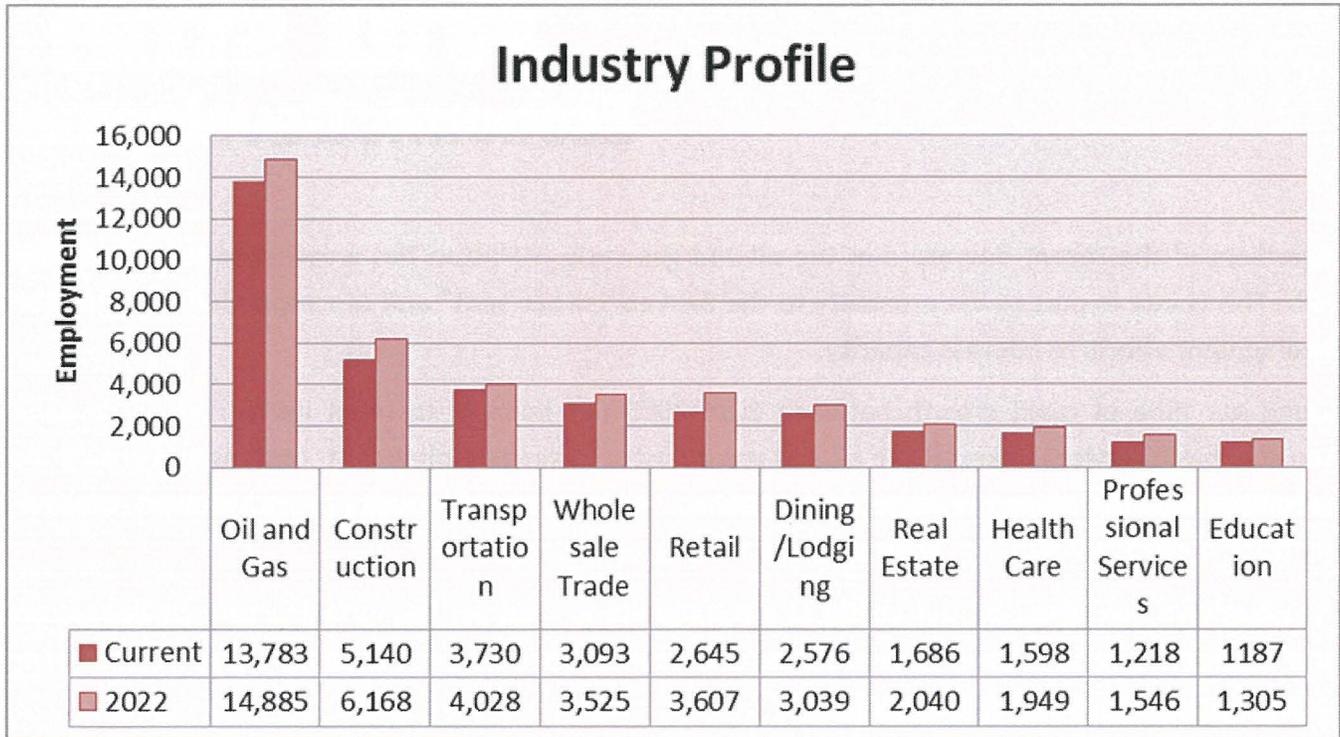
Williams County statistics as of: Oct 7, 2015

Population: 32,130
Employment: 40,584
Unemployment Rate: 1.9%
Job Openings: 1,149
Source: Williams County Statistics LMI Job Service Oct 7, 2015

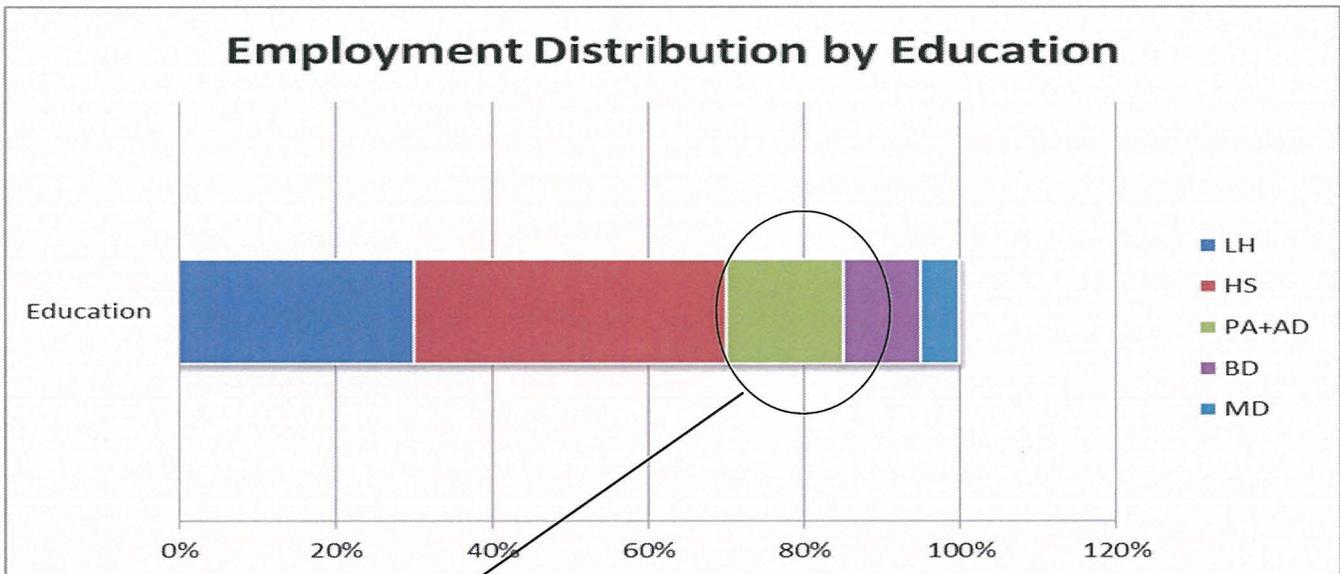
Current “high need” positions needed for the area

Diesel Mechanics	GPS Surveying
Instrument & Electronics	Truck Drivers
Linemen	Civil Engineers

Current and Future Workforce Needs Through 2022



Source: LMI ND Job Service



LH - Less than high school / HS - High school / PA - Postsecondary non-degree

Source: LMI ND Job Service

AD - Associate / BD - Bachelors / MD - Masters / DD - Doctorate

We envision this category to ramp up significantly as the industry continues to innovate and optimize.

**Williston, the
last great place for
opportunity!**