

4.3 UNDEREMPLOYMENT AND DISGUISED UNEMPLOYMENT continued

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county level where no information is provided by the various Department of Labor programs.

Areas with significant underemployment can be identified by considering labor statistics in relation to wages. However, quantification of this relationship remains difficult. A review of the labor statistics and wages in the two-county area indicates that some underemployment may exist due to seasonality, but it does not appear to be significant in the labor market.

Disguised unemployment is also difficult to measure. However, a review of labor force participation rates by age groups indicates whether or not an area is experiencing disguised unemployment. In the two-county area the labor force participation rate of males is higher than the state average. On the other hand, it appears that the labor force participation rate for females is lower than the state average. It is assumed that not all females who are willing to work are actively seeking employment and that the labor force availability for females may be greater than the current labor force statistics would indicate.