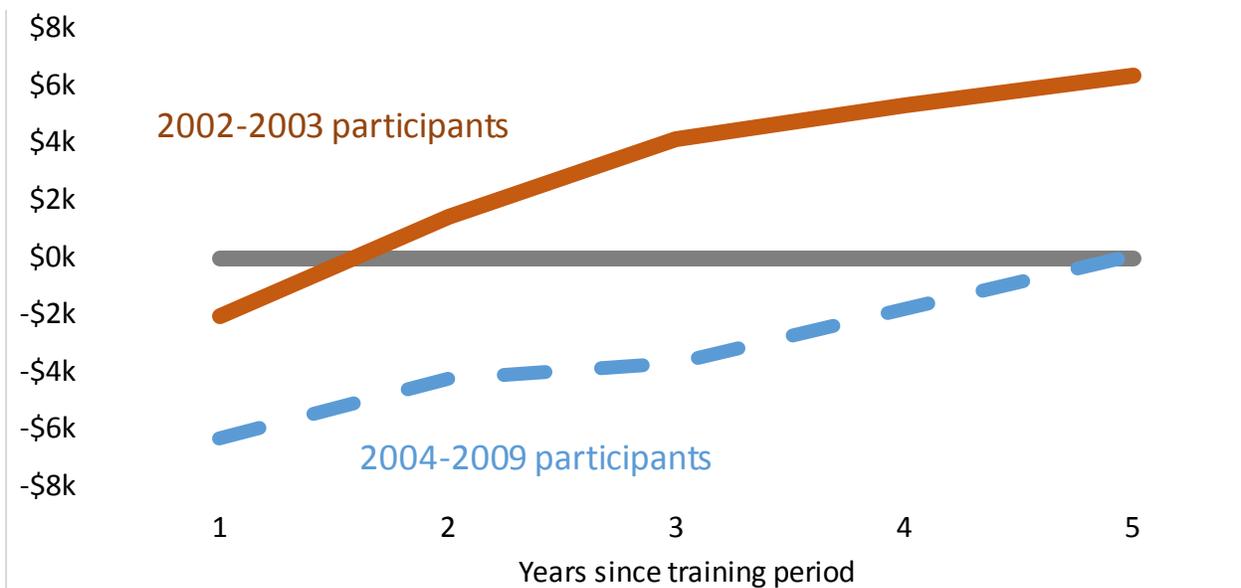


1) JLARC Member Question: For the people who had been through the training, do we know whether more of them kept their jobs during the recession?

JLARC Staff Answer: We know that 2002 and 2003 participants, on average, were more likely to be employed during the recession years compared to non-participants. However, we do not know whether or not specific individuals kept their same jobs at a higher rate during the recession.

2) JLARC Member Question: Your main graph in your presentation on net impact on earnings shows results for 2002-2003, compared to results for 2004-2009. Doesn't that mean you are looking at a shorter time period for the first group (two years versus six years)? Wouldn't you have different results if you looked at the same number of years?

JLARC Staff Answer: The graph referred to below of the net impact on earnings shows the net impact for five years after training was received for all participants. The five years of results for participants that received training in 2002 and 2003 were similar, so to simplify the graph, we combined those cohort groups. Further, the five years of results for participants that received training in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 were also similar, so we combined those cohorts to simplify the graph as well. Both lines, however, reflect the effects for the same amount of time (five years after training).



3) JLARC Member Question: Did you break the data down by industry? Did that reveal any salient differences?

JLARC Staff Answer: Participants' industry of prior employment was one of the characteristics in the propensity score matching. In effect, industry was controlled for by the model. We pointed out in the preliminary presentation that durable goods manufacturing (which includes a large part of the aerospace sector) makes up a large portion of the industry of the early participants. However, the methodology did not allow us to quantify outcomes by industry.

4) JLARC Member Question: Does the occurrence of the recession during the study period hinder anything the net impact results might tell us?

JLARC Staff Answer: The analysis was conducted by comparing training participants to a comparison group that was unemployed in that same year. The analysis was grouped by cohorts, according to the year they entered training. As a result, both participants and non-participants would have faced the same economic conditions of the recession after they had become unemployed. Therefore, the recession does not invalidate the net impact results.

However, the recession may, in part, explain the variation in performance between the earlier and later groups of participants. Additional years of data would help us answer the question of whether the 2004-2009 participants eventually received gains in employment and earnings after the recession. It would also show us whether 2010 and later participants (becoming unemployed after the recession) had outcomes more similar to the performance of the 2002-2003 participants.

5) JLARC Member Question: Is there data before 2002?

JLARC Staff Answer: No, 2002 is the earliest data. The Program began in 2000, however 2002 is the first full year of participation because a key part of the Program was not in place until part way through 2001.

6) JLARC Member Question: What qualitative information did you gather from participants?

JLARC Staff Answer: We conducted a survey of the most recent 18 months of participants, a sample of about 2,500 people. We also held three focus groups. A large majority of respondents felt the Program provided positive benefits to them. Participants also expressed concerns about problems they encountered with accessing the Program. This underscores the relevance of the Legislative Auditor's recommendation on improving Program administration, such as the application form.

7) JLARC Member Question: Did you survey people who did not complete training to find out what caused them to drop out of the Program?

JLARC Staff Answer: Individuals who did not complete were not included in our survey. However, ESD conducts a shorter annual survey that asks participants about reasons they did not complete. The results from that survey indicate that when respondents withdrew it was because 1) their unemployment benefits ran out before they completed, 2) they needed to find a job rather than continue in school, 3) they found a job that met their needs without requiring completion of training, or 4) they had insufficient funds for tuition, fees and books.

8) JLARC Member Question: Did any participants attend vocational/technical training instead of other Community College programs?

JLARC Staff Answer: Eligible training programs must be intended to train participants in specific high demand occupations. This would include many vocational training programs available in the state's Community and Technical College system, as well as privately provide programs that are specific to high demand occupations. In the past 5 years, approximately 90% of participants attended training at public community and technical colleges and 10% attended private training programs. General education courses that are not intended to lead to a specific occupation would generally not be permissible in the Training Benefits Program.