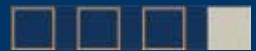


# Construction Industry Occupational Wage Survey



*\*Standard Survey ~ Current*

*\*Pilot Survey ~ 2003*

*\*Questionnaire ~ 2003*



# Overview of the Current Survey

## ➤ First Order of Business: *Organize Records*

→ only non-residential



→ choose peak week



Week in which the firm employed the greatest amount of non-owner labor at non-residential construction sites.

Many complained this is the most  
difficult part of the survey



# Required Information for each Employee:

- ◆ Region ~ where the work was done
  - » possible multiple breakouts for 1 employee (up to 14)
- ◆ Occupation
  - » possible multiple breakouts for 1 employee
- ➔ Skill Level ~ Journeyman or Subjourney level
- ◆ Union
- ➔ Construction Type ~ Building or Heavy / Highway
- ◆ Hours
- ➔ Hourly Rate
  - » possible multiple breakouts for 1 employee
- ◆ Fringe Benefits
  - Health and Welfare
  - Holiday and Vacation
  - Other Benefits
  - Pension
  - Apprenticeship Training Pay



# Sample Survey represents only 1 employee listed multiple times

see sample survey within your handouts

## Line

- 1 Employee worked 20 hours in Portland as a Laborer Group 1
- 2\* Employee worked 5 hours in Salem
- 3\* Employee worked 5 hours as a Concrete Laborer
- 4 Employee worked 5 hours on a Heavy / Highway project
- 5\* Employee received zone pay



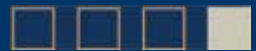
\*Has potential of being broken out numerous times



# Pilot Survey

## Peak Week by Region

- 30 firms responded correctly
- 75 firms responded incorrectly
- 125 firms reported one region
  - (possibly incorrect response or irrelevant to Pilot Methodology)



*Statistical comparisons difficult due to  
how many reported incorrectly or  
only one region*



# PILOT SURVEY

## Peak Week by Region

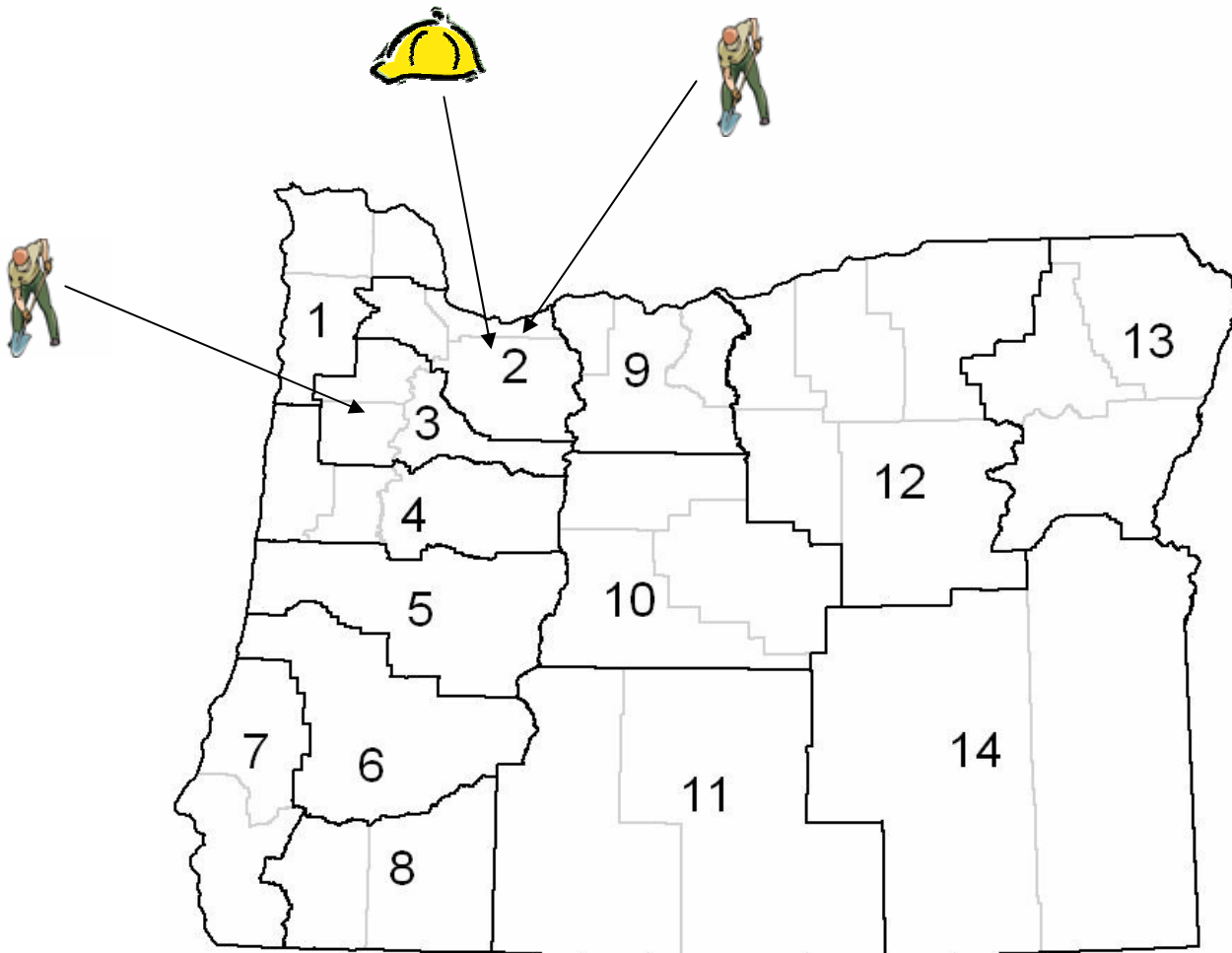
- ✿ far too complicated - methodology did not reflect how firms keep records
- ✿ made selecting peak week(s) very difficult
- ✿ biased results
- ✿ unintended consequences could be problematic



# Possible Unintended Consequences:

- Non-compliance may increase
- Timeliness of returns may be affected
- Accuracy of data may be affected
- Non-Union workers receive more weight within the survey for the state as a whole
- Commissioner cannot group regions to set rates





Represents 1 union worker at 1 firm



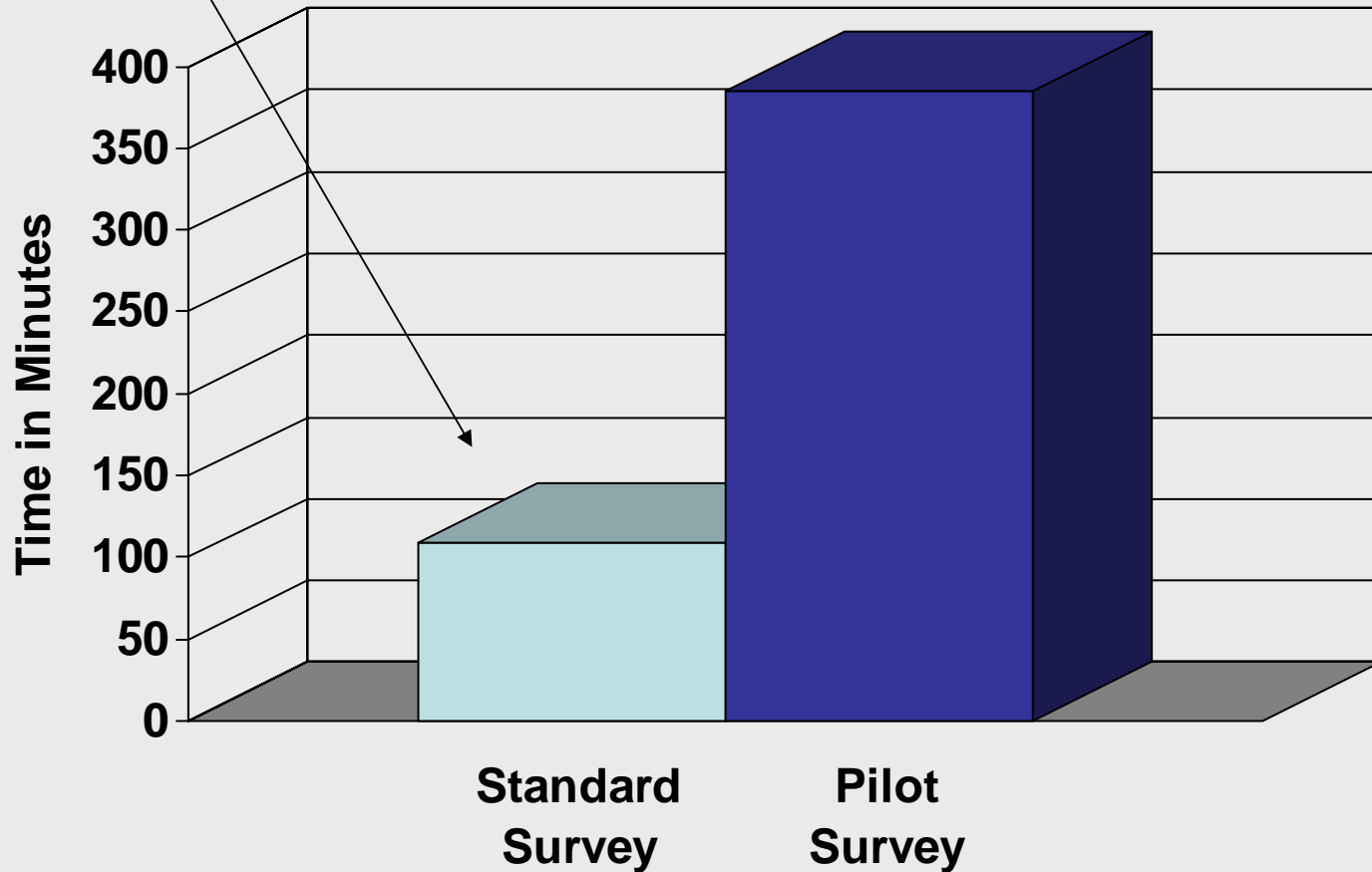
Represents 1 non-union worker at 1 firm

# Questionnaire

< 2 hours

6.5 Hours

## Average Survey Completion Time



Too long and complicated	81
Dislike survey	25
Small firm with few employees	22
Sets PWR with PWR	18
Problem with extended survey time frame	17
Occupational issues	15
Difficult to determine Peak Week	14

“This whole process is a waste of my time. Reality is subjected to La La Land resulting in a meaningless, pointless effort to create government garbage – useless paperwork – GET REAL! Stop this nonsense.”

-Pilot Data Respondent



# History of the Survey

## ❖ Originally:

- ✓ 1995 Legislature first authorized to conduct a voluntary survey to set PWR
- ✓ 1996 First Survey
  - inconclusive results and the data was not used
- ✓ 1997 Second survey
  - Data used to determine the rates
- ✓ 2003 Peak Week timeframe extended to cover an entire year
  - Prior years choose 1 of 8 pre-selected weeks
  - No longer ask if hours were for PWR job
  - No longer required Apprentice hours
- ✓ 2003 Construction Type included
  - 2 categories – Building or Heavy/Highway
  - Prior years:
    - Building or Heavy or Highway (3 categories)
    - Then removed all together



# Washington's Survey:

- Survey by trade
- Region = largest city
  - if no hours then, county average
  - if no hours then, existing wage remains
- Voluntary – some rates date back to 1989
- Only surveys few trades a year
- Scope of work – unclear definitions
  - Uses Industrial insurance risk classifications



# Confidentiality

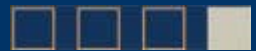
- BOLI Statute – “all reports and returns or other information provided to the commissioner under this section are confidential and not available for inspection by the public.”(ORS 279C.815(4).
- OED Statute – “all information in the records of the Employment Department pertaining to the administration of the unemployment insurance, employment service and labor market information programs: (a) Is confidential and for the exclusive use and information of the Director of the Employment Department in administering the unemployment insurance, employment service and labor market information programs in Oregon.” (ORS 657.665)
- OED contract – “information that may be specifically classified as confidential by BOLI, shall be kept confidential.”



# Final Comments

## ➤ Possible Improvements?

- Consolidate
  - Wage Region
  - Truck Drivers



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## ➤ Things to keep in mind:

- The more complicated the survey
  - the less reliable the data
  - more reporting error
  - increase in non-compliance





“As the light changed from red to green to yellow and back to red again, I sat there thinking about life. Was it nothing more than a bunch of honking and yelling? Sometimes it seemed that way.”

--Jack Handy Deep Thoughts

