



CONTACT: Patty Goodwin
(303) 839-5177

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
10/15/04

Mountain States Employers Council Wage Projection Survey Reflects Increased Employer Confidence in Economy

DENVER--Colorado and Wyoming employers will offer annual wage increases averaging 3.4 percent for the coming year, according to Mountain States Employers Council's 26th-annual Pay Increase Projections survey.

The survey's projections compare with wage increases that averaged 3.2 percent for 2004.

Employers in the Denver/Boulder area project wage increases of 3.4 percent in 2005, compared to 3.3 percent in 2004. Employers in the Colorado Springs/Pike's Peak region project increases of 3.3 percent in 2005, compared to 3.0 percent in 2004. Northern Colorado and Fort Collins increases are projected to average 3.3 percent in 2005, compared to projections of 2.8 percent in 2004.

With 534 employers responding, the Employers Council survey is the largest sampling of pay increase projections in the Mountain West.

"These projections are encouraging," said Michael G. Severns, MSEC president. "For the first time since 2002, the annual projected percentage of increase has risen, reflecting an improving state economy and business climate which appears to be giving business confidence in the future."

From 2002 through 2004, while employers gave annual wage increases, the amounts of those increases declined each year. The 2005 projections indicate that trend will reverse.

As in 2004 projections, the oil and gas market sector shows the largest projected increase, 3.8 percent, for 2005. The finance and real estate sectors' average wage increase is projected at 3.7 percent for 2005, versus a 3.8-percent increase projected for 2004.

The mining industry continues to project the lowest increases, averaging 2.5 percent for 2005. However, the sector's percentage increase is higher than the 1.8-percent increase that was projected for 2004.

The survey's "mode," or the most commonly occurring percentage in the sample, remains at 3 percent for 2005, identical to the 2004 mode, which was the lowest mode in the MSEC Survey's 26-year history.

Four percent of employers surveyed project no wage increases for 2005, compared to the 10 percent of employers who projected no increases in 2004.

Mountain States Employers Council, with 2,500 member employers, and offices in Denver and Colorado Springs, offers services in all areas of employment law, human resources, training and surveys. Founded in Denver in 1939, MSEC members are served by 50 human resource and management development professionals and 30 staff attorneys.

O f f e r i n g m e m b e r s e r v i c e s i n



Employment Law



HR Consulting



Training



Surveys