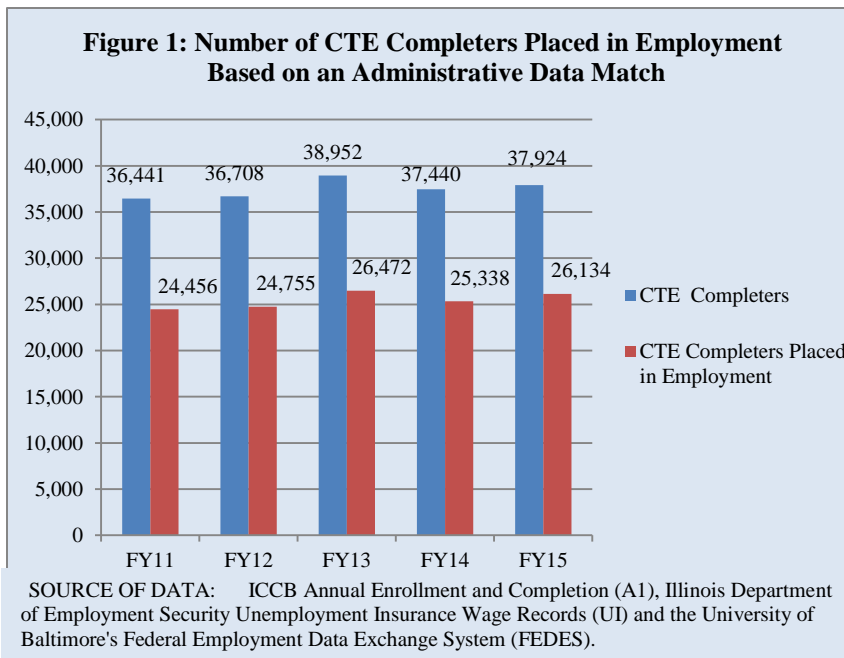


Illinois Community College Board Frequently Asked Questions

TO WHAT EXTENT ARE COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATES PLACED IN EMPLOYMENT?

Community college Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs provide individuals with the skills needed to compete successfully in the workforce. Higher level skill attainment has become progressively more important in recent years with the struggling state/national economy and the need to compete in an increasingly global marketplace. Economic conditions influence workforce outcomes for graduates. Recently the national unemployment rate was 4.1 percent (May 2017, U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2017 [Table A-1](#), Not Seasonally Adjusted).

Information about community college CTE graduate placement in employment is available from two sources: an administrative data matching initiative and a survey of recent graduates from selected CTE programs which is based on a 5 year cycle. The administrative data match has broader coverage of CTE graduates. The survey collects additional information on topics such as student satisfaction with both program components and college services and tracks continuing education outcomes.



Administrative Data Match. Based on an administrative data match, **more than two-thirds of 2015 CTE graduates were working at the end of calendar year 2015.** CTE completers were employed (civilian or military) in the 2nd post program quarter (N = 26,134/37,924, or 68.91 percent). This reflects an increase from the previous year (+1.23 percent; FY2014 N = 25,338/37,440). Based on a three-year average, 68.2 percent (N = 25,981/38,105) of CTE completers were employed 4 to 6 months after graduating. Some graduates decide to continue their education.

Survey Results. The *Follow-up Study of Fiscal Year 2015 Career and Technical Education Program Graduates* report is an Illinois Community College System

accountability and continuous improvement initiative. Data are collected using a standardized survey from graduates of selected CTE programs approximately 9 months after graduation. **Overall, 78.9 percent (N = 1,552/1,967) of fiscal year 2015 Illinois community college graduates from the designated CTE programs were employed in March, 2016.** The unemployed and seeking employment rate for this same group was 12.8 percent (N = 251/1,967). When the same programs were surveyed five years earlier, during the end of severe recession, 73.4 percent (N = 1,410/1,920) of completers were employed and 16.6 percent were unemployed and seeking employment (N = 318/1,920). U.S. unemployment rates were 9.2 percent in 2011 and 5.1 percent in 2016 (<http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsatabs.htm>, Table A-1, Not Seasonally Adjusted, March). More than one-fourth of fiscal year 2015 Illinois community college program completers in selected CTE programs were pursuing additional education (N = 549/1,947, or 28.2 percent) compared to 30.7 percent (N = 587/1,911) five years earlier. Some graduates are both working and pursuing additional education.

ICCB discontinued collection of the Career and Technical Education Follow-up Study in FY2016. For more information, please visit the Postsecondary Perkins Online Data System (PODS) and the Follow-up Study of Career and Technical Education Program Graduates <http://iccbdsrv.iccb.org/perfmeasure/home.html> & http://www.iccb.org/data/?page_id=47.



Collaborating with the System to Inform Statewide Community College Issues