

## **SECTION 9:**

### **Element 6: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **A. EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS, TRENDS & FORECASTS**

The Town of Sherry's history has been that of an agricultural community. Agriculture remains very important in Sherry's economic development.

According to the U.S. Census, the population in Sherry, age 16 and older, was 616. Of these 166 were not in the labor force.

The labor force, 16 and over living in the Town of Sherry was approximately 450 workers in 2000. Of these, 9 were unemployed for an unemployment rate of 1.5%. The unemployment rate for the Wood County was 3.8% in 2000.

As of December 2011 unemployment rate for our nine-county NCWWDB area: 7.2% (unadjusted); the highest being Vilas with 10.6% unemployment (4th highest in the state) and the lowest being Portage with 5.7% (57th highest in the state), according to source WorkNet and DWD.

The Wisconsin "Historical High" rate of January 1983 was 11.5%. The Wisconsin "Historical Low" was February 2000 at 3.3%. These unemployment rates as documented are seasonally adjusted. (Source Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Tables 7 & 8 display employment related information. The primary occupation of Sherry residents in the labor force in year 2000 was *Production, transportation & material moving* (124 people), while the leading industry sectors of employed Town residents in year 2000 was: *Manufacturing* with about 130 people.

These figures are all based on the number of workers residing in the Town and what they do for employment not where they are actually employed. Information regarding the number of jobs available in the Town of Sherry itself is not readily available.

Historically, *manufacturing* has been the strongest industry sector county-wide, with over 9,000 workers in both 1990 and 2000. The next two leading industries countywide had different trends. *Education, Health and Social Services* grew by about 23 percent from 1990 to 2000; but *Retail Trade* declined by 18 percent. *Education* employment rose countywide.

**Table 9-1:  
Occupation of Employed Workers**

	Town of Sherry		Wood County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Management, professional & related	33	108	8,258	10,011
Service	40	49	4,399	5,598
Sales & office	82	86	8,299	8,991
Farming, fishing & forestry	77	13	1,610	471
Construction, extraction & maintenance	43	61	2,086	3,900
Production, transportation & material moving	119	124	9,642	8,374

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Employment forecasts are difficult to come by and not available at the town level. However, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (WDWD) prepares workforce projections by industry for its multi-county service regions. The current projections, released August 2006, cover 2004-2014. The projections for the North Central Workforce Development Area cover Wood County, namely Adams, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage and Vilas).

These projections show increases in all occupations. *Production*; and *Farming, fishing, & forestry* occupations both are projected to gain less than 30 positions each for the whole region. The following occupations are all projected to need over 600 replacement workers each: *Production*; *Office & administration*; *Sales*; and *Food preparation & serving*. Town residents commute to jobs, of which 86.3% commuted by car, truck or van. Research reveals 12% travel outside Wood County for employment, so the Town of Sherry can expect to take advantage of some of this projected employment.

Another way to look at future employment is to examine the labor force and unemployment rates. In 1990, the labor force in the Town was 394 people. By 2000 the labor force had increased 11.9% to 441 with 1.5% unemployment (16 years and over). There were 152 people not in the labor force. The degree to which this available workforce was actually employed was dependent on external economic factors reflected in the unemployment rate.

**Table 9-2:  
Industry Sectors**

	Town of Sherry		Wood County	
	1990	2000	1990	2000
Ag., Forestry, Fishing, Hunting & Mining	79	40	1,686	1,321
Construction	29	45	1,560	2,333
Manufacturing	121	130	9,284	9,144
Wholesale Trade	6	5	1,115	929
Retail Trade	29	32	6,282	5,150
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	44	60	1,844	1,685
Information	N/A	4	N/A	581
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	15	10	1,225	1,471
Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative & Waste Mgmt Services	9	9	1,607	1,288
Education, Health and Social Services	36	70	6,984	8,558
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services	0	18	347	2,537
Public Administration	3	8	725	980
Other Services	23	10	1,514	1,368
Totals:	394	441	34,173	37,345

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**B. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

Various organizations at the County, Regional, and State level offer a variety of programs to assist with commercial and industrial economic development.

**C. LOCAL ASSESSMENT**

The Town of Sherry recognizes the need and importance of local businesses within the Town and the important role they play in employing residents of the Town and surrounding communities. Regulations imposed by government entities such as taxes, fees, and permits impose hardships upon local businesses thereby making them less efficient and less able to work productively ultimately resulting in less employees.

The fewer taxes, permits, fees, and regulations that are imposed upon businesses will also attract and retain businesses to the Town. Other strengths that are helpful in attracting or retaining local development include: abundance of woodland, recreational opportunities, town hall facilities, park facilities, asphalt paved roads, access to county and state

highways, and proximity to hospitals and shopping. Perhaps the most prevalent factor in attracting businesses, and thereby jobs to the Town, is the fact that Sherry is unzoned.

The Town of Sherry also recognizes the hard work and efforts of its residents in earning their living, and therefore expects to coordinate with any government entity whose proposed economic and environmental policies may affect, threaten, or impose undo hardships upon the residents of the Town.

## **D. GOALS, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES**

### **1. GOALS**

- a. Encourage development that promotes the cultural standards of the community.
- b. Encourage small business and new businesses to locate in the Town of Sherry that are compatible with the cultural standards.
- c. Encourage the expansion and/or improvements of existing businesses within the Town.
- d. Increase tax base by encouraging new housing as mentioned in Section 5 Housing; by promoting the town as a good place to live.
- e. It is the goal of the Economic Development section to promote and protect individual allodial property rights as guaranteed by the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Wisconsin.

### **2. OBJECTIVES**

It is the objective of the Economic Development section to achieve our goal through local control by utilizing the coordination process at the town level.

### **3. POLICIES**

Our policies will promote communication between the Town of Sherry and other units of government and their agencies including adjoining towns, regional plan commissions, county, state and federal governments. Also they will build a government to government relationship with adjoining towns, county, state and federal governments utilizing coordination as outlined in this element. Any policies adopted by the Town or Town appointed committee must be consistent with the goals of this section and overall coordination plan.