

WHAT IS A JOB?

A Job is ...

work that needs to be done, (meaning it has a meaningful purpose)

that you can do, (meaning that you have the skills, capacity)

and someone will pay you to do it. (meaning that there is a customer for this work...a source of income to pay you)

Self-Employment - When you think of businesses in the US do you realize the following about the number of people who are working for someone else versus being self-employed?

- According to the latest available US Small Business Administration data, in 2008 there were **27,281,452** businesses in the US.
- Over twenty-one million (**21,351,320**) of these have only one employee - themselves - the owner/entrepreneur
- And another five million plus businesses (**5,295,000**) had 20 or fewer employees.
- That leaves **635,132** businesses with more than 20 employees, employing all the other private sector workers.

Source: <http://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/files/us10.pdf>

Unemployment - When you hear about creating jobs as the "biggest" priority of our country, how many are employed versus how many unemployed? Does entrepreneurship education make a difference, both now and for the future?

First, let's know about the numbers of people who are unemployed versus employed...

Year	Civilian non-institutional Population over 16 #	Civilian Workforce		Employed		Unemployed		Not in Labor Force #
		#	%	#	%	#	%	
2008.	233,788	154,287	66.0	145,362	62.2	8,924	5.8	79,501
2009.	235,801	154,142	65.4	139,877	59.3	14,265	9.3	81,659
2010.	237,830	153,889	64.7	139,064	58.5	14,825	9.6	83,941

Source: U S Gov. Bureau of Labor Statistics (Numbers in thousands)

1 The population figures are not adjusted for seasonal variation.

NOTE: Revisions to population controls and other changes can affect the comparability of labor force levels over time. In recent years, updated population controls have been introduced annually with the release of January data. Additional information is online at www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#pop.

WE WONDER So should we (as entrepreneurship educators) wonder how many of the **14,825,000** unemployed persons might be able to be self-reliant if their education experiences had helped them find "Work that needs to be done, that they have the skills and capacity to do, and someone would pay them to do it"such as customers! Also, what about the **83,941,000** "not in the labor force".

The entrepreneurs of tomorrow are in our Schools Today!

WHAT ARE YOUR CHOICES?

The Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education believes that entrepreneurs "become" through the experiences of their lives. Thus one of our core values is that "Entrepreneurship education is a lifelong learning process that involves all levels of education and training."

But how.... The Consortium has published National Content Standards that include 403 Performance Indicators that were created by focus groups of entrepreneurs who indicated what knowledge, skills and attitudes were important for their success http://www.entre-ed.org/Standards_Toolkit/. The mere size of the list tells you that it cannot be the foundation for any single course. Rather it is used to support the content of many different programs at different levels of education. Throughout education students can be developing an understanding of how to find opportunities and developing skills to be self-sufficient.

What do you think about making your own job ...

We suggest each person consider their individual answers to each question and then discuss them with the group.

- How do you find work that needs to be done?
- How many different job tasks can you personally do?
- For which kinds of skills or tasks are people normally paid most?
- Which of these many possible tasks do you most enjoy doing?
- How and where do you find paying customers? What tools help you locate them?
- During the recession most large businesses have not been hiring and many individuals have lost jobs. Do you think more people have started businesses since 2008 so that there are now more businesses in the nation?
- How can so many single person business operations exist?
- Do you think that any of these single person businesses will grow to the point that they will hire additional staff members?
- Does the above data help you understand when we say that the USA is a country of small businesses that we really are that? Is any of this data a new revelation to you?
- Do most American's think that our employer base looks more like this small business segment of the employment community or are big businesses all they see?
- What does it take to create a job?
- If we had the choice of reducing the business tax rate or the personal income tax rate which of these choices do you think would help to create the most jobs? Why do you think the way you do to come to this conclusion?
- What would it take to have all students in the education pipeline of the USA gain Entrepreneurial Skills?
- Would this improve our economic condition?
- What are the first steps that should be taken in order to make it happen?

HOW COULD YOU USE THE CONCEPTS IN THIS DISCUSSION TO START A BLOG ABOUT THE VALUE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION?



Please join the Consortium as we strive to enlighten people about entrepreneurship!