



## Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board

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*Chair of the Board, Randall Hansen  
Executive Director, Jacqueline Debets*

**DATE:** December 9, 2004

**TO:** All News Media

### Media Advisory

**FOR MORE**

**INFORMATION**

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### Panel to Discuss Retail Sales Trends at WIB

A recent look at state equalization board reports shows that retail sales have been essentially flat in the last 25 years or so (1978 to 2001) on an adjusted dollar basis using consumer price index. Total employment in Humboldt County has increased by over 15,000 jobs. A panel will discuss the implications of this and other trends with the Workforce Investment Board Friday, December 17, 2004.

Expert panelists will include:

- Professor Steve Hackett, Chair of HSU Economics Department
- Dennis Mullins, CA-EDD's Labor Market Information Specialist
- Julie Fulkerson, owner of Plaza Design in Eureka, Arcata and McKinleyville
- Kelly Porter, former manager of Anchor Blue in the Bayshore Mall

The public and media are invited to attend the WIB meeting in the Sequoia Room of the Humboldt County Office of Education on Myrtle Avenue. From 8:30am to 9:30am the WIB will review it's draft strategic plan, and the panel discussion will run from approximately 9:30am to 10:30am. The panelists and WIB members will be available for further comment after the meeting.

The data on the retail industry is taken from the North Coast Almanacs, published by Robert Noble in Arcata, who can be reached at 822-5440.

As a board mandated by the Workforce Investment Act and an appointed commission of the Board of Supervisors, the HC-WIB includes local leaders from business, education, economic development, labor and workforce training groups, with the majority representing private sector employers. The HC-WIB brings to light important labor market, employer and economic information.

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