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**HWS LABOR MARKET PULSE INDEX REVEALS SURPRISING  
VARIABILITY IN U.S. LOCAL HEALTH CARE LABOR MARKETS**

*Index finds strength in Orlando, Las Vegas and Dallas markets in Q1 2009. Sacramento, Detroit and New York found to be weakest.*

**June 8, 2009 – San Francisco, CA** – Entering the health care workforce has traditionally been a safe haven in recent economic downturns. While this appears to be true at the national level, the new HWS Labor Market Pulse™ Index (LMPI) reveals surprising variability at the local market level.

“We have always known that health care is a local market business, particularly when it comes to recruitment and retention,” said David Cherner, Managing Partner of Health Workforce Solutions LLC, the company that developed the HWS Labor Market Pulse™ Index. “Although health care employment has not been hit as hard as other industries the last few quarters, the LMPI data reflects that some markets continue to struggle more than others and that health care has not been immune.”

In response to demands for local workforce data that provides actionable information, HWS launched Labor Market Pulse™ in 2008, a first-of-its-kind, centralized and local workforce planning tool for health care employers in three major markets. The launch of the HWS Labor Market Pulse™ Index (LMPI), immediately expands the footprint of Labor Market Pulse into 30 markets and enables meaningful comparison, by tracking elements including temporary health workforce shortages and surpluses, facility and bed closures, announced layoffs and expansions, and local economic trends.

Among the findings of the HWS LMPI for the first quarter of 2009:

- The near term demand for health care workers is growing faster than the national average in markets including Orlando-Kissimmee, FL, Las Vegas-Paradise, NV, and Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX. Much of this growth is being fueled by newly announced expansion plans at organizations including Florida Hospital Celebration Health and Florida Hospital Kissimmee, both part of Adventist Health System; Summerlin Hospital Medical Center in Las Vegas; and Medical

City Children's Hospital in Dallas, among others.

- However, in markets including Sacramento-Arden-Arcade-Roseville, CA, Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI, and New York-Northern NJ-Long Island, NY, growth has slowed considerably, and may actually have resulted in net job loss for certain occupations, due to layoffs, employee furloughs and derailed expansion plans.
- In the most recent quarter, 11 markets of the 30 tracked show signs of accelerated expansion and 8 markets were in line with or below national averages. This is up from 9 markets expanding and 19 markets inline or below in the previous quarter.
- The LMPI composite index, a representative basket of the 30 largest markets, posted a 21% drop in the first quarter of 2009 from the last quarter of 2008, and a 25% drop from Q3, 2008.

“Absent major innovations in the way health care is delivered in this country, the reality is that competition for health care workers is going to get fierce in the next few years in nearly every market in the country,” said Sean Brady, Product Manager for Labor Market Pulse. “Understanding different market dynamics in addition to deeply understanding their own, will help health care employers recruit more effectively and remain competitive in the war for talent.”

The HWS Labor Market Pulse Index is now available at [www.labormarketpulse.com](http://www.labormarketpulse.com) for a base price of \$1,995 that includes all 30 major market reports and composite summary. Individual market reports can be purchased for \$99. Going forward, the HWS LMPI will be expanded to 36 markets and continue to be tracked on a quarterly basis both individually and in composite indices. For more information, contact [sales@healthws.com](mailto:sales@healthws.com) or 1-877-892-2430 x805.

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#### **About Health Workforce Solutions LLC (HWS)**

Health Workforce Solutions LLC (HWS) is a leading research and advisory firm focused on workforce issues in health care. Founded in 2004, the clients of HWS include hospitals and health systems, health plans, professional practice groups and associations, educational and training institutions, foundations and government agencies. For more information, visit [www.healthws.com](http://www.healthws.com).

#### **About Labor Market Pulse™ (LMP)**

Responding to requests for high-quality workforce data at the market level, in 2008 HWS launched Labor Market Pulse, an actionable, market-based workforce analysis and

planning tool. LMP combines years of workforce planning expertise and knowledge of the local job markets to help health care organizations anticipate and meet their workforce needs. For more information, visit [www.labormarketpulse.com](http://www.labormarketpulse.com).

**About the HWS Labor Market Pulse™ Index (LMPI)**

The HWS Labor Market Pulse™ Index (LMPI) provides a quarterly barometer of local market healthcare workforce expansion and contraction. Patterned loosely after the Case-Shiller home index, the LMPI identifies and enables comparison of 30 health care labor markets by tracking elements including temporary health workforce shortages and surpluses, facility and bed closures, announced layoffs and expansions, and local economic trends. The LMPI will be published quarterly as part of Labor Market Pulse™ and distributed nationally to health care executives, the media and other interested parties. For more information, visit [www.labormarketpulse.com](http://www.labormarketpulse.com).