



INTRODUCTION TO LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

LMI Insights

WHAT IS LMI?

- ▶ Labor market information (LMI) consists of data, statistics, and analysis related to employment and the workforce including:
 - labor supply and demand
 - industry employment and wages
 - occupational employment and wages
 - labor force and unemployment figures
 - employment projections
 - labor force demographics

- ▶ All material produced by DEW's LMI Division is publicly available at <https://scworkforceinfo.com> (better website coming soon!)

WHO USES LMI?

- ▶ Workers and jobseekers might want to know how many people are employed in a particular industry or occupation and how much they make, as would their current or potential employers.

- ▶ But there are many others interested in LMI:
 - elected officials and other policymakers
 - education professionals
 - economic developers
 - academic researchers
 - media outlets
 - you, obviously

LMI PROGRAMS

- ▶ LMI operates four programs that are funded by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, part of the U.S. Department of Labor.

These are:

- Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)
- Current Employment Statistics (CES)
- Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)
- Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

MEET THE TEAM

- ▶ Dr. Bryan Grady, Director
- ▶ Tondelayo Milton, Deputy Director
- ▶ Brandi Caldwell, Research and Planning Administrator (QCEW)
- ▶ Cynthia Grant, Research and Planning Administrator (OEWS/CES/LAUS)
- ▶ Alan Davis, Workforce Information Grant Manager (more on that later...)

LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

- ▶ LAUS data tell us how many people are employed and how many people are unemployed.
- ▶ Someone is “unemployed” if they don’t have a job, are able to work, and have actively searched for a job in the past four weeks.
- ▶ The sum of these two figures is the labor force, and the share of the labor force that is unemployed is the unemployment rate.
- ▶ These data are produced monthly statewide and for metropolitan areas, workforce development areas, counties, and municipalities with at least 25,000 people.
- ▶ <https://jobs.scworks.org/laus> or <https://bls.gov/lau/>

BACKGROUND ON GEOGRAPHY

Metropolitan Statistical Areas



Workforce Development Areas



CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

- ▶ CES data provide information on the number of filled jobs and their average wage every month.
- ▶ This is available at the state and metropolitan area level and can include substantial detail by industry.
- ▶ Note that these numbers may not always tell the same story: LAUS is a survey of households; CES is a survey of businesses.
- ▶ Together, data from these programs form the Employment Situation press release and the monthly Trends newsletter published by DEW that summarizes current economic conditions.
- ▶ <https://jobs.scworks.org/ces> or <https://bls.gov/sae/>

QUARTERLY CENSUS OF EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

- ▶ QCEW is just what it sounds like: A quarterly record of all businesses in the Unemployment Insurance system, how many people they employ, how much they pay, and what industries they are in.
- ▶ If this sounds a lot like CES, you're not wrong, but it takes a lot longer to do a census than a survey because LMI staff often need to follow up with employers to receive detailed data.
- ▶ QCEW data are available at the state, metropolitan area, workforce development area, and county level.
- ▶ <https://jobs.scworks.org/qcew> or <https://bls.gov/cew/>

OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE STATISTICS

- ▶ Unlike CES and QCEW, this data set provides information on payroll and salary by occupation rather than industry.
- ▶ It's very important to know the difference: Industry is the kind of work your employer does, while occupation is the work you do.
- ▶ It is published only once per year, again because it requires a lot of manual data collection and processing.
- ▶ OEWS figures are available at the state, metropolitan area, and workforce development area level.
- ▶ <https://jobs.scworks.org/oews> or <https://bls.gov/oes/>

WORKFORCE INFORMATION GRANT

- ▶ LMI receives a Workforce Information Grant (WIG) from the Employment and Training Administration, also part of the U.S. Department of Labor.
- ▶ This funding supports many additional products, including:
 - short- and long-term employment projections by industry and occupation (<https://jobs.scworks.org/indprj>, <https://jobs.scworks.org/occprj>)
 - labor supply and demand (<https://lmi.dew.sc.gov/lmi%20site/HWOL.html>)
 - annual economic and workforce analysis report (http://lmi.dew.sc.gov/lmi%20site/Documents/Economic_Publications/S_C_2021_Economic_Analysis_Report.pdf)
 - WIG staff also produce reports on topics of interest to LMI customers ... and that means you!

TRENDS

- ▶ The monthly Trends publication is a great resource for getting a handle on the most recent LAUS and CES data in detail.
- ▶ There is also a featured article every month that provides meaningful analysis of economic data from LMI and elsewhere on a topical item.
- ▶ The current issue and recent past issues of Trends are online at: <https://www.dew.sc.gov/data-and-statistics/data-trends-issues>

COMMUNITY PROFILES

- ▶ These reports provide a summary of LMI available data for a given community.
- ▶ Profiles are available at the state, metropolitan area, workforce development area, WIOA region, and county level.
- ▶ You might need to dig a little deeper to find the exact number you're looking for, but the profiles are a great starting point.
- ▶ Profiles are available online at <https://lmi.dew.sc.gov>.

CONTACT US!

- ▶ If you need help finding data about our state's workforce, whether it's on our website or not, please don't hesitate to contact LMI.
- ▶ Email address: lmicustomerservice@dew.sc.gov

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!