Introduction to LMI

Employment Service Training Module

What is Labor Market Information (LMI)?

- LMI includes data and analysis on employment, unemployment, wages, employers, industries, occupations, and related concepts – in the past, present, and future.

- This can be as simple as the number of jobs in a particular place and as complex as evaluating what college degrees lead to the highest return on investment for the student.

What does the LMI Division do?

- LMI receives five USDOL grants to produce and disseminate data to the workforce system and the public and state funds to conduct analysis for the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development.

- We are here to provide you with anything you may need in helping serve employers and jobseekers – no ask is too big or too small!

- You can reach us at lmicustomerservice@dew.sc.gov or contact the Workforce Insights Analyst for your area.

Key LMI Division Staff

- Assistant Executive Director – head of the LMI division, oversees all operations

- Deputy Assistant Executive Director – oversees data production programs

- Labor Market Analytics Director – oversees data dissemination and analytics programs

Key LMI Division Staff

- Workforce Information Grant Manager – manages a team of regionally-focused Workforce Insights Analysts

- Strategic Initiatives Manager – manages a team that carries out legislative mandates and other special projects

- Research and Planning Administrators – manage the teams producing state employment and wage data

LMI Data Production

- There are five programs through which LMI produces data:

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

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

- LAUS produces data on how many people are employed and unemployed.

- The second group doesn't just mean people collecting unemployment insurance. It is anyone who doesn't have a job and is actively looking for one.

- 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 and are available at several geographies: statewide, metropolitan areas, workforce development areas, counties, and municipalities with at least 25,000 people.

Current Employment Statistics (CES)

- CES provides 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 sets of numbers may not always tell the same story: LAUS is a survey of households, while CES is a survey of businesses.

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

- QCEW is exactly what it sounds like: A record of all businesses covered by the Unemployment Insurance system, how many people they employ, how much they pay, and what industries they are in. It is produced, of course, quarterly.

- If this sounds a lot like CES, you're not wrong. However, 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.

Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

- Unlike CES and QCEW, OEWS 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.

Employment Projections

- Every two years, USDOL requires LMI to produce long-term (10-year) employment projections by industry and occupation.

- Last July, LMI released statewide projections for the 2022-2032 period.

- Corresponding projections at the local workforce development area level will be available this winter.

- These data include total jobs, growth rate, and annual openings.

LMI's methodology: should it matter to case managers and business consultants?

- Being confident in the accuracy and reliability of your labor market data allows you to offer relevant and trustworthy service, and it will help your clients make better informed decisions.

- With valid LMI data, you can:

  - Understand labor market trends

  - Better match job seekers and employers

  - Tailor services to your geographical region of focus

Where to Find LMI Products

- To launch soon: LMI website https://lmi.sc.gov

- Community Profiles that cover basic LMI data: https://lmi.dew.sc.gov

- *Trends*, a monthly summary of the most recent LAUS and CES data: https://dew.sc.gov/labor-market-information/data-trends-issues

- LMI Insights, a facts and figures blog: https://dew.sc.gov/LMIInsights

Job Openings Data

- The federal Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) reports the total number of openings statewide but doesn't break that down.

- LMI has access to raw job openings data from Chmura Economics and the National Labor Exchange, allowing for a very granular analysis.

- We are working to create self-service tools for these resources, but in the meantime, just drop us a line with whatever questions you have.

Decoding LMI Jargon

- NAICS – North American Industrial Classification System. A set of standardized codes meant to identify business establishments by their area of activity.

- SOC – Standard Occupational Classification. Also a set of codes, meant to identify workers' roles/titles by their duties.

Decoding LMI Jargon (cont.)

- Act 67 – shorthand for The Statewide Education and Workforce Development Act of 2023, which aims to improve coordination between state entities involved in workforce and education pipelines.

- BLS – The Bureau of Labor Statistics, a federal agency that collects, analyzes, and publishes labor and economics data. For LMI, it is both a source (of data we seek) and a recipient (of data we produce).