LASER Upgrade
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The Economic Research and Analysis Bureau (ER&A) in October will complete an upgrade to the Labor Analysis Statistics and Economic Research (LASER) tool—which provides access to a wide range of labor market information and other services—to fully integrate it into the New Mexico Workforce Connection website. Upon implementation of the upgrade, LASER's usual web address (laser.state.nm.us) will connect to a landing page contained within Workforce Connection. This integration will bring about some exciting new functionality. While navigating the NM Workforce Connection site, you will no longer need to log out and visit LASER for economic data services; when looking at a specific occupational statistic in LASER, you will be able to go straight to a job search.

One of the first things you will notice in the upgraded LASER system is a new color scheme that mirrors the look of the NM Department of Workforce Solution's website. The top menu items will include a link to the NM Workforce Connection homepage and a register/sign in option. The ability to create an analyst login will enable a more customized data experience. An analyst account will require administration approval to access some data, but all published data will be immediately available. The second big change is that the LASER landing page will have a chart of New Mexico's unemployment rate for the current month and the past year, with a link to the most current news release.

While the left-hand menu categories will remain similar to what they were previously, making navigation to familiar data pages virtually unchanged, two new options—Advertised Job Data and Supply and Demand—will facilitate research on New Mexico job postings and job openings, both current and historical to May 2007. Additionally, to keep the site familiar to navigate, the category Quick Links will be carried over and located on the bottom right of the page. The included links will lead directly to the search criteria page for the designated program: QCEW (Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages), CES (Current Employment Statistics), LAUS (Local Area Unemployment Statistics), OES Wage (Occupational Employment Statistics wage data), Industry Projections (long-term industry forecasts), and Occupation Projections (long-term occupational forecasts).

The landing page will be organized into four sections to highlight products and services from ER&A. Career Exploration, Business Focus, Publications & Presentations, and Quick Links. Many of our products are being redesigned and improved. Under Career Exploration, two new job hunter’s guides will be available this fall—the 2012 Veteran’s Employment Resource Guide and the 2012 Career Guide, the latter targeted to job seekers and students between 16 and 24. New under Business Focus will be the regional review publications highlighting labor market topics throughout the state, while under Publications & Presentations, the Online Series will provide articles by ER&A economists focused on New Mexico’s labor market.

Please take some time to visit the improved LASER website at laser.state.nm.us. If you need help or have questions, use the Assistance Center to contact us electronically, or feel free to contact ER&A staff at (505) 383-2731. We believe you will find the LASER data experience exciting.