As we move into the 2011 year, so does our data delivery system with improved functionality. LASER is your tool to accessing New Mexico employment and economic time series. Each of the data series produced by the Economic Research & Analysis Bureau (ER&A) is available in LASER along with other economic indicators. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the new functionality.

One of the first differences you might note is that the colors are visually more dramatic. The menu system has a greater distinction between categories. Also, the flyout menus move smoothly, making selections easier. The actual categories remain similar to what they were previously, so navigating to your usual data pages is very much the same.

A very nice option has been added to the area, occupation, and industry profile summary pages. The labor market information user can change which data categories show on a profile summary page. Also, the user can add graphs or maps where available to many of the data result pages, improving data visualization.

For advanced users, the front page now has six Quick Links. These links lead directly to the search criteria page by program acronym. The six links are LAUS for Local Area Unemployment Statistics; OES, for Occupational Employment Survey; QCEW, for Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages; CES, for Current Employment Statistics; LTIP, for Long-Term Industry Forecast; and LTOP for Long-Term Occupational Forecast. Just to let you know, these links were added at the request of ER&A’s labor economists to make their workflow easier.

The new data function added this year is the Quarterly Workforce Indicators for New Mexico. This product is a partnership between the Census Bureau and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages program. This data series provides information on trends in employment, hiring, job creation and destruction, and earnings, with details of geography, age, gender, and industry going back to 1995.

Another cool feature is the addition of real-time data on actual job postings. The information is a report as of the current day from Online Advertised Jobs data. You can see this on-the-fly tabulation by using the area, occupation or industry profile.

Please take some time in the next few weeks and visit our Labor Analysis Statistics and Economic Research 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.