LASER Version 16 Upgrade
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Labor Analysis, Statistics, and Economic Research (LASER), the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions’ interactive data website, has been upgraded to Version 16 from Version 15. The upgraded site provides simpler navigation for users and adds visualization to LMI data. Menu titles were changed to better represent each section, and menus were simplified to decrease clutter. Icons with “visual cues” were added to the area, occupation, industry, and education profiles to give an initial visual overview of data. Search options were expanded to allow data users to pull more data.

To visit LASER, go to www.jobs.state.nm.us/analyzer. The following sections summarize changes introduced in Version 16.

Left Navigation Menus

My Analyst Workspace

My Analyst Workspace and the Quick Menu, which were separate options in Version 15, have been combined, and a section—My Analyst Profile—has been added that allows users to make changes to their analyst profile. If you haven't registered as an analyst previously, My Analyst Profile gives you additional incentive. My Analyst Profile provides registered analysts the ability to set their default area. Anytime you select a data option, data displayed will be for your selected default area. My Analyst Profile also gives users the ability to update their contact information and change their password.

My Analyst Profile will only display if you are signed in as an analyst. To register as an analyst, click the Register/Sign In button at the top of the page. Under Option 3, select Analyst for the account type.
**Labor Market Profiles**

Simplification was the objective when updating the left navigation menu. The menu title was changed to *Labor Market Profiles* from *Current Data Analysis* to be more descriptive. Also, menu options were condensed to reduce clutter. This makes for easier navigation and more visible features. Previously, menu options on the left navigation included *Comparisons* and “specific data” options. Those options were moved to their respective categories. For example, *Area Comparison* and area “specific data” are now menu options within *Area Profile*.

**Old Version—Current Data Analysis**

**New Version—Labor Market Profiles**

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**Data Trends**

Other than a more descriptive menu title (*Historical Data Analysis* was changed to *Data Trends*), no changes were made within this menu navigation. However, expanded data selections are now available in this section and are explained in the Data Options section later in this article. And, as mentioned previously, by registering as an Analyst and setting the default area, the number of clicks to get data you want are reduced.

**Old Version—Historical Data Analysis**

**New Version—Data Trends**
Data Display and Options

New Graphics

LASER Version 16 has enhanced graphics to help analysts visualize labor market data. A Quick Reference Group, with enhanced visual cue icons, appears at the top of the area, occupation, industry, and education profile summaries. This Quick Reference Group provides visual icons about information in the profile and also provides a quick link to referenced sections. If you hover over an icon, narrative information for the statistic is displayed, and if you click on the icon, it will take you directly to the section. Here are the Quick Reference icons displayed for each profile.

Area Profile

Icons:
- Unemployment Rate
- Number of Advertised Job Openings
- Average Employment
- Population Growth
- Per Capita Income

Occupation Profile

Icons:
- Projected Annual Openings
- Number of Advertised Job Openings
- Number of Candidates Available
- Number of Candidates per Job Opening
- Education Required
- Experience Required
- Entry Level and Experienced Level Wage Rates

Note that not all statistics are available for certain geographies within the profiles. When data are not available for the selected geography, faded icons denote that data for a higher-level geography are displayed.

Industry Profile

Icons:
- Projected Annual Openings
- Number of Job Openings
- Number of Establishments
- Average Weekly Wage
Education Profile

Quick Reference

The information below outlines key characteristics of the educational programs in New Mexico.

Icons:
- Number of Training Providers
- Number of Program Completers
- Number of Advertised Job Openings

The definition and calculation for each of the Quick Reference icons are available by clicking the help symbol in the right-hand corner of each box. For example, the icon indicating high/low demand is determined by a ratio based on the quantity of job openings and the quantity of people employed.

- High Demand—Indicates demand above the ratio threshold of 0.0001
- Medium Demand—Anything between the high and low demand ratios of 0.0001 and 0.00001, respectively
- Low Demand—Demand below the ratio threshold of 0.00001

Data Options

At long last, LASER users rejoice! Multiple selections for multiple data options are available in LASER. Data users were happy when they could Select All Time Periods or Select All Areas in Version 15. In Version 16, you can now view multiple time periods for multiple areas and, if you wanted to add complexity, multiple industries or occupations. Although you can now select more options, there are still limitations that make choosing multiple selections complicated. If you choose more than the maximum allowable options in your original selection, the next selection will be limited to one option. The examples below help to explain limitations with this new functionality.

Here is an example of how to select multiple metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) for multiple time periods using Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) data.

1. Click the LAUS quick link from the LASER homepage.
2. Click to change the area. Under Select New Area, change the area type to MSA and then select all MSAs.
3. Click Set Area(s).
4. Click to change the time period. Under Select New Time Period, change the period type to Monthly and select up to six time periods.
   a. Notice that the “Select All Time Periods” option is not available. You must use the Shift or Control key to select multiple options. (See the highlighted section above.)
   b. The note below the selection tells you how many time period options you may select since you have already selected multiple areas.
5. Click Set Period(s).

If you had selected “All Time Periods” as your first option and then attempted to change the area, the area selection would be limited to a single area selection.
Here is an example of how to select multiple counties, multiple time periods, and multiple industry sectors using Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data.

1. Click the **QCEW** quick link from the LASER homepage.
2. Data displayed are already selected for Multiple Industries (all industry sectors).
3. Click to change the area. Under **Select New Area**, select County and then select Chaves, Eddy, and Lea Counties.
   a. Notice that “Select All Areas” is not available. You must use the Shift or Control key to select multiple options. (See the highlighted section in the screen shot.)
   b. The note below the selection tells you how many area options you may select since you have already selected multiple industries.
4. Click **Set Area(s)**.
5. Now click to change the time period. Under **Select New Time Period**, select Quarterly and choose up to six time quarters.
6. Click **Set Period(s)**.

Below is a sample of the resulting table sorted by year/quarter and industry code.

If you had selected all counties first, the time period would have been limited to one selection. Multiple selections for multiple options are tricky but can provide more data simultaneously than previously in LASER.

Try our LASER Version 16 next time you have a chance. If you need assistance working in LASER, use the Assistance Center, located within the left navigation menu, to email any questions you have. Select **Email Your Questions** and then choose Analyst and Labor Market Assistance for the subject. If you cannot find the labor market data you are looking for, you can also call or email the Economic Research and Analysis Bureau directly at (505) 383-2729 or nmdws.economicresearch@state.nm.us.