Why use labor market information (LMI) when making career decisions?

Exploring careers is something you should do now and throughout your life. Having information about certain occupations and jobs can help you better align your future and/or existing career path with what is important to you. Using this information to make career decisions can help you potentially avoid career changes later on, when switching careers may be more difficult.

This guide will walk you through accessing labor market information, or LMI, to make more informed decisions on careers. The steps below outline the process for finding this information on one of the best resources for career exploration, employment resources, and the job search:

New Mexico Workforce Connection (NMWC)

www.jobs.state.nm.us

BEFORE THE DATA: Creating a User Account

The first thing you should do when visiting the NMWC website is create a user account. Creating an account is going to allow you to customize your career exploration and job search specifically to you. Your career exploration and personal assessments are unique to you, so your interaction with the website should be too. For steps on creating an account, see the back page of this guide.

HOW TO: Identify the Best Occupational Opportunities in Your Area

Identifying the best occupational opportunities is a great starting point if you’re not sure which occupation to choose. You want to make sure you choose a career path that will pay enough to support yourself and your family and will provide employment opportunities. Here are two places to find information on the best occupational opportunities.

In the Area Profile

STEP 1: Log in to NMWC.

STEP 2: Under the left-hand Services for Individuals menu, click on Labor Market Services.

STEP 3: Select Area Profile.

STEP 4: Select an area.

LANDING PAGE: You will land in the Area Summary for your location. Any location (e.g. county, workforce region, state) can be chosen.

What to Look At

Towards the bottom of the Summary:

1. Occupations by Employment Wage: This provides wages for the highest paying occupations. There are useful display options
you can select, and you can change the sorting of the occupations by clicking on any one of the table’s column headings. *(Note that you will need to scroll further down on the page to reach this information.)*

**2 Occupations by Projected Growth:** This provides information on the occupations that are projected to have the most annual openings and the fastest growth rates over the next ten years.

**Occupations by Projected Growth:**

### Other Useful Information in the Area Profile
- Current jobs available
- Employers with the most job openings
- Areas with the most job openings
- Required education, skills, and experience of current job openings
- Unemployment rates and industries with the highest employment

### Area Profile Pro Tip #1: Finding Even More LMI
Don’t forget to check out the **Area Details tab** at the top of the screen. This is where you can see all of the information available, with additional maps and graphs and with data broken out by LMI topic.

### Area Profile Pro Tip #2: Control the Information in the LMI Profiles
You can change the information you see in both the **Summary and Detail tabs** by changing the categories under the **Area Summary Configuration Display Options, Show Data Categories** at the top of the page.

**In Labor Market Facts**

**STEP 1:** Log in to NMWC.

**STEP 2:** Under the left-hand **Services for Individuals menu**, click on **Labor Market Services**.

**STEP 3:** Select **Labor Market Facts**.

**LANDING PAGE:** On the **Labor Market Facts** page you will find a list of options to help you answer some of the most common questions related to LMI.

**What to Look At**

**Occupational Information for Your Local Area:** There are eight links that will provide you with some of the most important information on occupations in your area, such as:
- The highest paying jobs
- The fastest growing occupations
- Occupations with the most future job openings
- Occupations with the highest employment
- The largest employers

**Other Useful Information:**
- Current jobs available
- Required education, skills, and experience of current job openings
- Occupations with the highest employment
- The largest employers

### Pro Tip: Other Resources for Top Occupations
There are two places to visit for more information on top occupations. Visit [www.dws.state.nm.us](http://www.dws.state.nm.us).

- Click on the **Labor Market Information menu** at the top of the page, and then click **Economic Research Publications**, under **Publications**. The *New Mexico Career Guide* and *Occupational Outlook pamphlet* are two great resources on the best occupational opportunities.
- Click on **In-Demand and STAR Occupations**, under **Data and Statistics**. You’ll find listings of the most in-demand occupations and those that also pay well.
In Job Market Explorer

STEP 1: Log in to NMWC.

STEP 2: Under the left-hand Services for Individuals menu, click on Career Services. Then click on Job Market Explorer.

STEP 3: Select your area to see a listing of all occupations. OR you can also select occupation group, education, experience, training, or wage requirements. Click Continue.

LANDING PAGE: You will now see a listing of all the occupations that meet your search criteria. In order to see the best occupations based on projected job openings, annual percentage growth, or wages (or other criteria), you can click on any of the column headings (shown here) to sort the information from highest to lowest or lowest to highest.

HOW TO: Find Out All There is to Know about an Occupation

Sometimes the best approach to investigating career options is to find out all there is to know about an occupation. You might ask yourself “How much will I make?” You might want to know how closely an occupation matches with the skills and experience you already have. The best place for this type of information is the Occupational Profile.

In the Occupational Profile

STEP 1: Log in to NMWC.

STEP 2: Under the left-hand Services for Individuals menu, click on Labor Market Services.

STEP 3: Select Occupational Profile.

STEP 4: Select your occupation using the Keyword search or Occupations by Group, Listing, Education Program, Military Specialty, Code, or License options.

LANDING PAGE: You will then land on the Occupation Summary page. NOTE that if you want to change your geography (automatically selected), you can do that by clicking the location link towards the top of the page.

What to Look At

Occupation LMI falls under three main categories.

Job Openings Information
- Jobs available and area distribution
- Jobs in related occupations
- Local supply and demand
- Employers by number of job openings
- Education, work experience, wage rates, area distribution, and certifications of advertised jobs

Occupation Details
- Typical education and work experience requirements
- Education training programs

Statistical Information
- Employment and wage statistics (total, industry, occupation)
- Occupational employment and future employment outlook
- Projected annual openings
Other Useful Information
Under the Occupation Details tab, you’ll find:

- education, work experience, and wage rates of other people looking for work in that occupation;
- nature of the work—activities, working conditions, tools and technology, tasks, and work values and needs; and
- job requirements, including skills, abilities, and knowledge required.

Occupational Profile Pro Tip: Comparing Occupations
Do you want to know how two occupations differ? Luckily, there is a quick and easy way to compare LMI using the Occupational Profile.

Step 1: Once you’ve selected an occupation within the Occupational Profile, select the far-right tab of the upper selection menu titled Occupation Comparison.

Step 2: Select either (1) a Related Occupation from the list provided or (2) the Select another occupation to compare to [your occupation] button at the very bottom of the screen.

The displayed screen will now show data side-by-side for an easy comparison.

HOW TO: Find Education and Training

The Occupational Profile provides minimum education requirements and a list of Education Training Programs by occupation. There’s another great place to find education and training information—the Education Profile.

In the Educational Profile

STEP 1: Log in to NMWC.

STEP 2: Under the left-hand Services for Individuals menu, click on Labor Market Services.

STEP 3: Select Education Profile.

STEP 4: Select your education program by using the Keyword Search or Programs by Area, Listing, Occupation, Career Cluster, or Program Code options.

LANDING PAGE: The Education Summary page.

NOTE that if you want to change your geography (automatically selected), you can do that by clicking the location link towards the top of the page.

What to Look At
The most important information in the summary is the Providers by Number of Completers—a list of education institutions and the number of students who completed the selected education program. Click on a provider for a listing of all education programs available.

Creating a User Account

STEP 1: Go to www.jobs.state.nm.us. Click on Register Now towards the top right-hand corner of the page.

STEP 2: Select the Individual option under Create a User Account and fill in the required (*) fields.

Your Dashboard
Take some time to explore Your Dashboard. You can access pretty much anything from this screen, so see which links are most important to you. Don’t forget that you can customize Your Dashboard to include specific widgets so that you can quickly and easily get to your favorite and most used resources in NMWC.