



The ten best resources for LMI

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The expert knowledge that young people value most from careers staff is labour market information (LMI). That's how they can find out where opportunities are and what the competition is likely to be for them, locally and further afield, now and in the future, in learning and in work. Yet we all know that reliable, up-to-date and user friendly LMI is hard to come by. We also know we need a healthy scepticism when listening to predictions of the future. Where is the era of mass leisure forecast at the end of the last century? So, where do we start? Here's a top ten of useful resources for careers staff.

1. LMI for All

[LMI for All](#) is a data portal developed by the Institute for Employment Research at Warwick University on behalf of the UK Commission for Education and Skills. Anyone can access the data and build it into their products. [RCU](#), [icould](#), [eCLIPS](#), [Plotr](#) and [Careers Explorer](#), for example, have already done so. [Skills Development Scotland](#) will be incorporating the data into its 'My world of work' website next year.

What is exciting about LMI for All is that it is supporting the development of customised LMI in place of traditional one size fits all LMI. Developers are producing front-end applications that will give students personally-relevant LMI. You can view the winning entries for the [LMI for All challenge](#) to design apps that will use the data. A widget that can be easily deployed on websites is also about to be launched.

It is also exciting that UKCES has agreed to support LMI for All indefinitely. (How often in the past has a good series of LMI leaflets gone out of date and never been revised!).

LMI for All has some brilliant data on pay and earnings in the public domain, especially in the STEM sector, but still has some gaps. Pressure is on the National Apprenticeship Service to make its data available to LMI for All!

LMI for All is also looking at the possibility of adapting the American O*NET data on the interests, skills, knowledge and abilities that are needed to do particular jobs for the UK. If you can't wait, have a look at the outstanding [O*NET OnLine](#) resource which shows what we have been lacking in the UK for the last twenty years!

2. The Future of Work: jobs and skills in 2030 (UKCES)

In February 2014, UKCES published [The Future of Work: jobs and skills in 2030](#).

This report looks at the future challenges and opportunities in the UK labour market and the implications for jobs and skills. It sets out four different future scenarios and identifies the actions employers and individuals can take to prepare for tomorrow's world of work. The slide pack is really useful if you're preparing a talk to the sixth form or staff!

It was always going to be difficult to select just one of the many valuable LMI publications from UKCES. [Skills and Employment in the UK: The Labour Market Story](#) (September 2014) is an authoritative assessment of the UK labour market, including skills supply and demand, use of skills at work, and skills needs in the future.

3. The Centre for Workforce Intelligence (CfWI)

[The Centre for Workforce Intelligence](#) is a superb example of how LMI can be used to plan workforce requirements, in this case for health, public health and social care. Would-be medics, for example, can read CfWI reports to find out vacancy levels, competition ratios, the position of women and the age profile of the workforce in a specialty that they are considering. Also, the use of this data by the NHS to ensure a more realistic supply of university places to study medicine means that there are far fewer graduates in subjects allied to medicine who are in non-graduate jobs 30 months after graduating (13%) than there are in subjects such as law (35%).

4. Careers Europe

[Careers Europe](#) is a founder member of Euroguidance, a network of 34 European countries supported by the European Commission. You will see on their website that they provide a wealth of information on living, studying and working in Europe.

I couldn't mention European LMI without including a recent report from IPPR. At 143 pages, IPPR's first annual review of [European Jobs and Skills](#) (April 2014) is not a quick read; but it offers an in-depth look at trends in employment and unemployment in countries and regions across Europe. The report addresses the critical issues of underemployment, structural unemployment, productivity and wages, changes in the nature of work, skills supply, labour market gaps and youth unemployment.

5. NIDirect Industry factsheets

The government services website for Northern Ireland has recently updated its 24 [industry factsheets](#) to help young people and adults make LMI-informed career choices. The leaflets are attractive and easy to read making them suitable for Key Stage 3 (and above). While some of the statistics will need to be used with care as they are based on trends in Northern Ireland, there is enough generic information to make them useful to students in other parts of the UK.

6. National Occupational Outlook – USA

I've chosen the [National Occupational Outlook Handbook](#) from the United States Department of Labor to represent the authoritative LMI that is available in many of the countries where our students choose to study and work.

[Canada](#), [Australia](#) and [New Zealand](#) also have highly-regarded sources of LMI which can be accessed from these links.

7. NOMIS – Official Labour Market Statistics website

[NOMIS](#) is launching a new website early next year but you can preview it now. You'll easily get lost in all the rich information about your area. You can view it at ward level. The 2011 census data also makes fascinating reading!

8. Engineering UK Report 2014

Now in its 16th year, the [Engineering UK report](#) on the state of engineering is a treasure trove of LMI for people interested in trends in the engineering sector. The information is presented in different formats: the full report, the annex, the synopsis and the infographics!

9. UNISTATS

[UNISTATS](#) is the official website for comparing UK higher education course data. It includes satisfaction scores in the National Student Survey, jobs and salaries after study and other key information for prospective students. UNISTATS is provided by the [Higher Education Statistics Agency](#) (HESA) if you are interested in reading the research reports that they publish.

10. The National Careers Service (England)

[The National Careers Service website](#) enables young people and adults to view job market information by sector and by region. The overview information is displayed attractively in graphic form with an accompanying short explanation. Make sure that students know to search by region so that they can get at the actual job vacancy and courses information for the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) that they are in.

11. Skills Development Scotland

I know it's cheating to add an eleventh, but I couldn't deny [Skills Development Scotland](#) a place at the top ten table! It produces dynamic LMI reports which allows users to do their own research into localities and sectors.

If you're interested in LMI for the other home nations don't forget to visit the job trends section of the [Careers Wales website](#) as well as the [Careers Service in Northern Ireland](#).

If you have a favourite source of LMI, please post a comment on the [Cegnet LinkedIn forum](#).

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12. Active Informatics

You may also be interested in looking at Careers Explorer and Connect Employer Engagement, two new subscription-only products for schools and colleges from [Active Informatics](#).

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