



A guide to LMI sources and careers support organisations

1. What is labour market information and why is it important?

Labour market information (LMI) provides quantitative and qualitative data about the workplace. It may include information about the range of jobs available, salaries and the demand for, and supply of, labour. It also gives you information about skill supply and shortages and the impact of national and global economics on the different job sectors.

LMI has local, national and international dimensions, as demand for certain skills and levels of qualification can be unevenly distributed throughout the UK and, indeed, the world.

As LMI is subject to local, national and global economic effects, it is vital that you use reliable, up-to-date sources. Impartiality is also important as some individuals or organisations may have a vested interest in boosting recruitment. Some sources seek to predict future trends, which is helpful when considering broad sectors.

However, it is important to make it clear to pupils and students that the labour market can, and does, change and companies do grow and others disappear, but for most people the key message is more likely to be about improving their skills and qualifications in order to get a job, keep a job and gain promotion.

The dynamism of the labour market, as it is often referred to, is more likely to affect those about to enter the labour market. For example if you are teaching post-16 and/or FE students it may be more relevant to signpost your students to vacancy data for their region alongside the longer-term labour market trends.

For primary teachers, it will be more helpful to use the longer-term trends, noting that the major sectors do not change rapidly over time. What is important to note, however, is that the qualifications and skills required by employers can change over time, with the main 'direction of travel' being towards better qualified and higher skilled employees.

2. Sources of labour market information

The following section provides a list of organisations which offer a range of reliable, up-to-date and impartial sources of LMI:

1. UK Commission for Employment and Skills

[The UK Commission for Employment and Skills](#) (UKCES) is a non-departmental public body which provides advice to government and devolved administrations on skills and employment policy; in December 2014 it published a guide to jobs in 2030. [Careers of the Future](#) showcases 40 top jobs in ten occupational areas which will be important in the future.



A guide to LMI sources and careers support organisations

The aim is to inspire young people with information about the range of job opportunities which will be available to them. Many of the occupational areas in Careers of the Future include STEM careers, including manufacturing, installation and maintenance, health and care, construction, IT and science, engineering and technology.

2. Working Futures

Working Futures is a two-yearly LMI Trends report produced from UKCES' market model. The model is the most detailed and comprehensive of its kind for the UK, providing a picture of employment prospects by industry, occupation, qualification level, gender and employment status for the UK and for nations and English regions up to 2022.

[Click here for more information.](#)

3. Office for National Statistics

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) provides both country and regional labour market profiles, which may be sufficient for your needs.

[Click here for more information.](#)

4. Sector Skills Councils

The Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) are employer-led, independent organisations covering different employment sectors. While jobs, which use STEM skills, will be available in most sectors, the SSCs most relevant to STEM careers are listed below:

- [Cogent](#) – nuclear, chemicals, polymers, petroleum, life sciences and pharmaceutical industries
- [Construction Skills](#) – construction industry
- [Energy & Utility Skills](#) – gas, power, waste management and water industries
- [e-skills UK](#) – business and IT
- [Semta](#) – science, engineering and manufacturing industries
- [Skills for Health](#) – UK health
- [Improve](#) – food and drink manufacturing
- [Lantra](#) – land management and production, animal health and welfare and environmental industries
- [Proskills](#) – printing, mineral extraction and processing, health and safety and process and manufacturing of furniture, glass, ceramics, coatings and paper industries

5. Local Enterprise Partnerships (England)

The Local Enterprise Partnerships in England bring together local authorities and businesses to drive up economic growth. There are 39 of them in England and they are a good source of local LMI which may be of use to you and your students.

They are partnerships between local authorities and businesses which support economic growth and job creation in a local area by setting out economic priorities and providing strategic leadership.



A guide to LMI sources and careers support organisations

As part of their strategy many LEPs include support for career development of young people and adults, although each one will take a different approach to this.

A map of the 39 LEPs in England can be found [here](#). To find out more about the network of 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships in England [visit this page](#).

6. Skills Development Scotland

Skills Development Scotland is the strategic lead for employment and skills, including the provision of careers advice for secondary aged pupils, with an underpinning [website](#) and helpline.

7. Education Scotland

Education Scotland is the national body supporting the quality and improvement of Scottish education. On the Education Scotland [website](#), there is a range of information in relation to careers resources and support.

This is underpinned by a network of Local Employability Partnerships. These vary in membership but often include representatives from: local authorities, Jobcentre Plus (JCP), Skills Development Scotland (SDS), local colleges, the Third Sector and the NHS. [Click here for more information](#).

8. Employability in Scotland

Employability in Scotland provides a wide range of information and intelligence about employment and jobs. [Click here for more information](#).

9. Wales: The Wales Employment and Skills Board

Wales: The Wales Employment and Skills Board provides the employer perspective to Welsh Government Ministers on employment and skills matters, with a view to ensuring delivery is better aligned to the needs of employers and individuals across Wales.

The board includes employers from a broad range of sectors along with representatives from the UK Commission for Employment and Skills, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), Wales TUC and Welsh Government officials responsible for Skills, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning, Employment and Skills, and Strategic Policy and the Department for Economy, Science and Transport (DES&T). [Click here for more information](#).

10. Northern Ireland

The Department of Education and Learning in Northern Ireland provides a range of support across the education, training and learning agenda. [Click here for more information](#).



A guide to LMI sources and careers support organisations

11. The Gatsby Charitable Foundation

[The Gatsby Charitable Foundation](#) funds work in areas such as STEM, public policy, education and the arts. In 2013 it commissioned Sir John Holman to look into what good careers guidance would look like.

Studying careers guidance in six countries, [the Good Career Guidance report](#) identified eight benchmarks for providing good careers guidance and has informed government policy.

12. The Wellcome Trust

The Wellcome Trust promotes high quality teaching and engagement in STEM learning through a number of initiatives for primary and secondary schools. The Trust has funded the Improving Primary Science initiative since 2010 and provides a wealth of research reports, which are usually short and very readable. The Trust also provides a range of materials aimed to meet the diverse needs of key audiences, from teachers and STEM leads to help in the delivery of innovative teaching to tools and guides for leaders and governors to drive up engagement and the quality of STEM learning in their institution. [Click here for more information.](#)

3. Organisations which provide careers services and support

England

The National Careers Service

If you live in England, the National Careers Service website will provide you with regularly updated LMI for your area. They have a young people's helpline for individual advice and guidance - 0800 100 900 - and a section on their website for 13-16 year olds with advice on how to choose GCSEs and other courses as well as tools to help with careers decisions and information on occupational sectors and jobs. [Click here for more information.](#)

The National Careers Service website also has a useful planning tool with links for young people who want to study science to a high level to dozens of science and research job profiles [here](#).

Each job profile has information about what the job entails, hours, working conditions and starting salary, entry qualifications and other skills and aptitudes needed, opportunities for training and career development and where to apply for jobs.



A guide to LMI sources and careers support organisations

The Careers and Enterprise Company

Created in February 2015 the Careers and Enterprise Company aims to create a network of paid enterprise co-ordinators and volunteer enterprise advisers in Local Enterprise Partnership areas across England to promote employer engagement in secondary schools and colleges starting in autumn 2015 (primary schools are outside their remit). It will focus on areas where there is a gap in provision.

Local Authorities (LAs)

Many local authorities (LAs) are involved as active partners in the LEP but in addition to this, most of them have education and skills plans. These set out how they support the career development of young people in their area. LAs still have responsibility for promoting young people's engagement in education and NEET prevention. Some provide careers guidance services to education on a traded basis.

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Careers Service

This website provides a series of career matching tools to help young people to match their interests and abilities to jobs. It also showcases a range of careers and links qualifications and schools subjects to possible careers. You can also download LMI for Northern Ireland.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Scotland

Skills Development Scotland

If you live in Scotland, [Skills Development Scotland](#) delivers face to face career information, advice and guidance in schools as well as support through its contact centre and their website called My World of Work.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Wales

Careers Wales

Careers Wales provides a national helpline and website for young people, as well as information services about sources of help and labour market trends for employers and careers professionals.

[Click here for more information.](#)