

Step by Step Guide to Labour Market Information (LMI)

Step 1 What Is Labour Market Information (LMI)?

LMI is data, facts, and trends about the world of work—what jobs exist, where, how much they pay, and whether demand is growing or shrinking.

- “Hard LMI” means quantitative data from surveys, official stats, job vacancies, etc.
- “Soft LMI” comes from conversations, employer insights, or qualitative research

Together, this helps students and families understand how the job market functions now and might change in the future.

Step 2 Who Produces LMI—and Why?

LMI comes from various trusted sources:

1. Government agencies like the Office for National Statistics (ONS), Department for Education, and National Careers Service. A major tool is LMI for All, funded by the DfE, which compiles official labour data into one open-access service [GOV.UKGOV.UK](https://gov.ukgov.uk).
2. Regional organisations, such as Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) or Combined Authorities. They publish localised LMI tailored to school regions [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk).
3. Private research firms, e.g., Lightcast, providing in-depth projections (some free, some paid) [CXK](https://cxk.com).
4. Education and careers charities, like CXK or Prospects, that interpret and present LMI for young people [London City Hall+12CXK+12luminate.prospects.ac.uk+12](https://londoncityhall+12cxk+12luminate.prospects.ac.uk+12).

These groups collect and share LMI to help guide career choices, support educational planning, and shape training programs.

Step 3 Why Is LMI Useful for Students and Parents?

- Shows where the job demand is growing or shrinking—helping families avoid fields with limited future opportunities.
- Highlights salary expectations and what qualifications or skills jobs require
- Connects academic choices (e.g. GCSEs, A-Levels) to real-world careers.
- Helps plan the path to a job: apprenticeships, university, T-levels, etc.
- Allows regional comparisons and supports rational planning—such as whether relocation is needed for a chosen career.

Step 4 How to Use LMI

Step	Action	What It Helps You Do
1	Explore sectors and trends using LMI.	Learn which industries are expanding—e.g. healthcare, tech, green energy
2	Check local data via LEP or LMI for All.	Understand what's happening in your area
3	Compare job info—earnings, qualifications, progression.	Decide which roles match interests and needs.
4	Match skills and subjects to careers.	A-Levels in STEM suit engineering; Arts suit creative roles. LMI highlights required skills youthemployment.org.uk .
5	Plan routes—apprenticeship vs degree vs training.	Use LMI to see which path offers job and progression prospects.
6	Stay up-to-date on emerging trends.	E.g. tech disruption, green energy—ensures planning stays relevant.

Step 5. Recommended LMI Resources

National & Government Data

- LMI for All – central UK careers database with salaries, growth, and vacancies
[GOV.UK+1GOV.UK+1](#)
- National Careers Service – tools for skills mapping and exploring careers
[GOV.UK+1GOV.UK+1](#)

Regional/LEP Insights

- <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>
- <https://london.startprofile.com/page/london-enfield>

Careers Advisory Sites

- Prospects Luminate luminate.prospects.ac.uk

Step 6 Tips for Students & Parents

- Use multiple sources—combine national, regional, and sector-specific LMI.
- Check recency—the nearer the data date, the more reliable it is
- Look beyond numbers—interpret LMI: e.g. understand trends, skills gaps, and sector challenges (soft LMI)
[lmiforall.org.uk+1luminate.prospects.ac.uk+1](#).
- Discuss findings together—talk about the data with careers advisors, teachers, and parents.
- Use LMI to guide decisions, but also factor in interests, values, and lifestyle goals.

Step 7 Final Word

LMI empowers students and families to choose futures with clarity, aligning education choices with real job opportunities and realistic pathways. It transforms vague career ideas into informed, future-ready plans.