

We hear the term Labor Market Information or LMI a lot, but what is it?

Labor Market Information is all the quantitative data, like numbers and statistics, and qualitative information, or the personal stories to support the data, related to employment and the workforce. The goal of LMI is to help customers make informed plans, choices, and decisions for a variety of purposes, including business investment decision making, career planning and preparation, education and training offerings, job search opportunities, hiring, and public or private workforce investments.



A good starting point for Labor Market Information is the annual Missouri Economic Report. This report provides a nice overview of what is happening in the state with high-level measures of economic health, like per capita income, labor force information, unemployment and changes in employment by industry.

Knowing your area of the state is a key part of identifying the occupations that may be needed to support the local economy. In a supplementary section, data is prepared in a regional summary and is specific to that area and its economy. As you know, the economies of each region of the state vary greatly based on the industries and occupations located there, and understanding the local workforce demographics, industry, and labor market data is a crucial first step of the analysis process.



One way to learn about the immediate current needs of employers is through job ads, also known as Real Time data, and the Real Time Labor Market Summary highlights information from the ads. MERIC uses Burning Glass, a tool that spiders to about 35,000 different web sites with job postings and gathers different pieces of information about the job, such as title, location, education level, skills, and certifications as examples. This information is added to a database that we can query to gather intelligence on the job openings advertised by employers based on their needs.

The Real Time Labor Market Summary is compiled using data from Burning Glass and prepared for the state and regions each quarter. Each update includes –

- A high-level summary of the job postings for the state or region.
- Industries with the most job postings.
- Cities where the jobs are located.
- Employers with the highest number of job ads, representing opportunities for jobseekers to apply when skill sets match.
- The type of job that is posted. For example, employers tend to post for full-time, permanent jobs when they are confident in the position's outlook. Otherwise, the job may be posted as part-time or a short-term contract position.



The second part of the Real Time Summary focuses on the occupations found in the job ads. Each report lists the top 10 occupations posted in the Now, Next, or Later categories. MERIC uses the system of Now, Next and Later in its publications as an easy indicator of the education and/or training required for occupations.

- **NOW** jobs typically require short-term on the job training.
- NEXT occupations require some type of education or training beyond a high school diploma such as an associate's degree, apprenticeship, certification or industry recognized credential.
- LATER jobs require a bachelor's degree or beyond.

An occupation appearing on the Top 10 lists is featured with each Summary. Job information includes typical duties for people that work in the occupation, skills, certifications, and wages. Top employers are also listed.

A quick note on Burning Glass – this and other similar tools have limitations. Certain occupations tend not to be advertised in the newspaper or online and may be underrepresented in the data. For example, construction jobs are often hired through word of mouth or recommendations vs. an online ad.

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Missouri O	ccupati	nal Projections 20	al Projections 2014-2024						
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Occupatio				2014	2024		4-2024		
Grade*	STEM	N_N_L Code			Projected		Percent		Mean
			otal, All Occupations		3,085,830			\$19,680	\$43,650
8+		LATER 11-1011		11,412	11,308	-104	-0.91%	\$51,381	\$152,441
A+ D			ieneral and Operations Managers	52,287	55,751	3,464		\$42,422	\$100,506
D		LATER 11-1031		875 640	886 657	11	2.66%	\$17,545 \$56,593	\$26,554 \$111.658
8			dvertising and Promotions Managers Aarketing Managers	2,620	2,827				\$132,707
B+						207			\$132,707
8+ A		LATER 11-2022	ales Managers Jublic Relations and Fundraising Managers	6,370 938	6,620	250	3.92%		\$126,372
8+			ublic relations and rundraising Managers idministrative Services Managers	5,595	5,981	386	6.90%	\$48,680	\$84,189
8+ A+	CORE		computer and Information Systems Managers	6,269	7,270	1.001			\$125,809
	CORE		inancial Managers	9,468	10,095	627	6.62%		\$126,146
8+			nancar managers ndustrial Production Managers	3,576	3.641	65	1.82%	558,389	\$97,360
B			urchasing Managers	1.032	1,047	15	1.45%		\$132,609
8			ransportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	1,963	2,013	50	2.55%	\$55.368	\$91,348
8+			ompensation and Benefits Managers	378	398	20	5.29%	\$81,295	\$120,279
A			luman Resources Managers	2,335	2,528	193			\$117,481
8+			raining and Development Managers	413	433	20	4.84%		\$103,303
B			armers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers	8,191	8,497	306		\$31,182	\$57,578
B+			onstruction Managers	6.368	6,585	217	3.41%	\$55,743	\$96,737
C+			ducation Administrators, Preschool and Childcare Center/Program	730	795	65	8.90%	\$32,692	\$47,887
A			ducation Administrators, Elementary and Secondary School	4,654	4,876	222	4.77%	\$65,606	\$96,327
A			ducation Administrators, Postsecondary	2,178	2,436	258		\$51,969	\$97,210
В			ducation Administrators, All Other	309	317	8		\$41,481	\$69,823
8+	CORE	LATER 11-9041	uchitectural and Engineering Managers	2,498	2,570	72	2.88%	\$85,287	\$129,178
C+		NEXT 11-9051	ood Service Managers	4,006	4,198	192	4.79%	\$28,599	\$48,748
C+		NEXT 11-9061	uneral Service Managers	245	237	-8	-3.27%	\$50,654	\$81,681
C+		NEXT 11-9071	Saming Managers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$41,666	\$63,222
P N MO	crupatik	nal Projections	st Openings - Fastest Growing - Highest Wage - Notes - 🔽 🖉 🖬		100		0.001		100.00

While the Real-Time data captures current needs, projections are an indicator of the long-term outlook for occupations.

Long-term Projections are compiled every other year for a 10 year period. The next round of projections thru 2026 will be released soon.

The statewide projections are also sorted in different ways in quick answer reports -

- Most openings based on total openings
- Fastest growing based on the percentage change in employment
- Highest wage based on average wage

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Central Re	gion Occup	etional Pr	ojections 2014-2024			.6	,						
Occupatio			Provide States	Em 201	ployment 4 2024		Change 4	2015					
Grade*	STEM			Estima	ted Project	ed N	et Percent Entry Mea	n Mediar					
A	Related	LATER	29-1122 Occupational Therapists 29-1123 Physical Therapists	360		2							
C+	Related	LATER	29-1125 Recreational Therapists	59	63			46 541,29	3 \$46,315				
8 8+	Related Related	NEXT	29-1126 Respiratory Therapists 29-1127 Speech-Language Pathologists	269		2	5 9.29% \$42,733 \$50,6 6 16,79% \$37,515 \$59,3						
B+	Related	LATER	29-1127 Speech-Language Pathologists 29-1141 Registered Norses	6,22			6 16.79% \$37,515 539,2 29 10.10% \$41,794 \$56,1						
A	Related	LATER	29-1151 Nurse Anesthetists	149	361	1	2 8.05% \$130,250 \$162,		18 \$179,163				
A+ 8	Related Related	LATER	29-1171 Nurse Practitioners 29-2011 Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists	253				39 591,90 43 554,83					
8	Related	NECT	29-2012 Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians	474	515	4	1 8.65% \$23,349 \$35,4	44 \$30,830	0 \$41,491				
B+ C+	Related Related	NOW NEXT	29-2052 Pharmacy Technicians 29-2055 Surgical Technologists	812				50 527,030 82 536,77					
8	Related	NEXT	29-2056 Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	126			2 17.46% \$27,475 \$34,1						
8+	Related	NEXT	29-2061 Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	2,11									
8	Related Related	NEXT	29-2071 Medical Records and Health Information Technicians 29-2081 Opticians, Dispensing	597 151			7 11.22% \$26,664 \$39,3 6 17.22% \$19,090 \$26,6						
8		NOW	31-1011 Home Health Aides	499	633	11	34 26.85% \$17,552 520,0	26 519,21	5 \$22,164				_
8+		NEXT	31-1014 Nursing Assistants	4,87	0 5,36	F 41	99 10.25% \$17,739 \$23,6	72 523,04	1 \$26,639			edian WorkKey So	
			Grow	th Red	lacement	Total	Typical Education Requires	Tunical	Experience Required	Typical Job Training	Applied Mathematics	Reading for Information	Locating
			26		31	57	Master's degree		None	None			
				-	84 14	140	Doctoral or professional deg Bachelor's degree	ter .	None None	None None			_
			25		63	88	Associate's degree		None	None	5	6	6
			46		69 1,470	115	Master's degree Bachelor's degree		None	None		6	
			12	2	35	47	Master's degree		None	None		1	-
			55 20		60 82	115 102	Master's degree Bachelor's degree		None	None			
			20		113	102	Bachelor's degree Associate's degree		None	None	3	5	4
			169		80		High school diploma or equiva		None	Moderate-term on the job training	4	4	4
			20		21	41	Postsecondary non-degree aw Associate's degree	erd .	None	None	3	4	.4
			115		601		Postsecondary non-degree aw		None	None	4	5	4
			67		134 40		Postsecondary non-degree aw High school diploma or equiva		None	None Long-term on-the-job training	3	4	4
			134		113	247	No formal educational creder	tial	None	Short-term on-the-job training	3	4	3
			495		1,100	1,599	Postsecondary non-degree aw	erd	None	None	3	4	4

Projections are also prepared for the 10 regions of the state for the 800 plus occupations. The worksheet on the screen is just a small sample of information as an example.

Missouri includes extra pieces of information with the occupation titles to add value to the data.

- Career Grade More about Career Grades when we discuss the publication later in this session.
- **SOC Code** or the Standard Occupation Code that is assigned to each occupation.
- Employment Numbers baseline and projected employment in 2024.
- Employment Change the net number and percentage change of employment from the start to end of the projection period.
- Annual Wages Annual wages are presented at 4 different levels. Entry for those just starting to work in the occupation, Mean or Average wage, Median, and Experienced as people who have been working in the occupation for a longer period of time. Wages are from the Occupational Employment Statistics system. We'll also show a tool to look up wages for occupations during this session.
- Job openings Growth openings are when businesses are growing and need more people. Replacement openings are a result of people leaving jobs for different reasons such as retirement, a different job or leaving the workforce. Total openings is the sum of growth and replacement jobs.
- Typical Education Required The level of education usually required for the occupation.
- **Typical Experience Required** The experience typically required for success working at that job.
- Typical Job Training The level of training usually required for the job.
- Typical WorkKeys Score The WorkKeys scores generally required for success in the occupation. Names of the WorkKeys assessments have changed to and will be updated with the next round of projections.

Occupations with good growth numbers and a high number of openings are potential opportunities for jobseekers and are anther piece the puzzle of determining occupational demand.



One of the publications based on the long-term projections is Career Grades. Since most people are familiar with the common grading system of A through F used in school, Career Grades are a quick and easy tool to help compare the future outlook of occupations in Missouri.

Career Grades are calculated for each of the 800 plus occupations using an objective formula and based on:

- Total job openings
- Percent growth
- Average wage

A letter grade of A-F is assigned based on the results of the calculation. Higher letter grades mean a better outlook for the occupation.



Analysis of occupations in the A, B and C grade levels is performed. Occupations in the grade levels, the blue bars, are compared to all occupations, the gray bars, for wages and number of openings. The comparison provides insight on the outlook of the grade level occupations.

The second part of the analysis includes a list of in-demand occupations by the career grade and high number of total openings. The career opportunities are listed in the Now, Next and Later categories, based on the education and training typically required for success in the occupation.

The same type of analysis is also conducted for each of the regions.

In-demand occupations for the region are also listed by the career grade and number of total openings in the Now, Next and Later categories. Since the regional economies vary greatly in Missouri, the in-demand jobs and grade may be different in different areas of the state.



A second piece of research from projections highlights middle-skill jobs. Middle-skill jobs are an important part of Missouri's economy. Did you know that 40% of Missourians work in middle-skill jobs? With over 300,000 openings projected by 2024, more workers will be needed for these jobs.

Not all individuals want to pursue a 4 year degree. Middle-skill occupations typically require some type of education or training beyond a high school diploma and present another good opportunity for people willing to explore the options.

Occupations with the highest projected growth are:

- Secretaries and Administrative Assistants
- Nursing Assistants
- Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers



MERIC has prepared research and resources for Career Pathways. A series of pathways on 10 industry groups provides information on several career paths within each industry. We will use the Health Care Pathway as an example. Each Career Pathway begins with a series of quick facts on the number of employers and workers in the industry and the average wage.

Career Pathways are part of all industry groups, so the same common definition of career pathways introduces the concept for all industries.

Industry specific information follows in the Why Have a Career section. Details of the industry sector, its historic and projected growth, and importance to the state are described in this segment.

Certain knowledge, skills, and abilities are necessary for success in any industry. Basic or soft skills are an important part of the job and are valuable assets to the employer. Industry specific technical skills and competencies are also required of workers to be successful in their jobs.

The "Who's Hiring" section lists employers with a high number of industry job

postings.



Three different paths in in the Health Care industry -- Patient Care, Diagnostic/Therapeutic Medicine and Business Operations -- are mapped as part of the publication.

Consistent with other MERIC publications, occupations are listed in Now, Next, and Later categories based on the level of education and training typically required for success on the job. This format gives a natural career progression as a person obtains additional experience, education and training. Common degrees and certifications at each level assist individuals who have started their career as they locate where they are currently, and envision where further training and education could potentially lead.

The entry and average wage are also listed for each occupation.



Today we have covered a few of the Labor Market Information resources and how they can be used to assist customers. Other resources are also available on the MERIC web site a Supply and Demand Analysis, comparing job ads to job seekers; Closing the Gap, identifying career opportunities in in-demand jobs; and various workforce studies that take an in-depth look at certain careers.