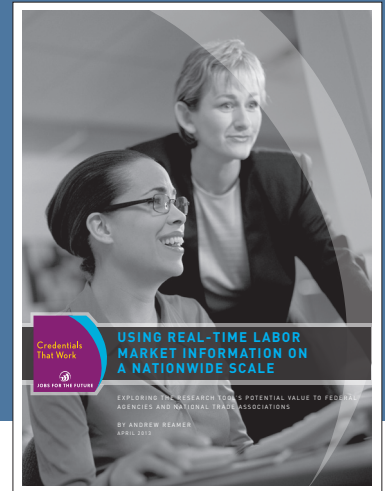


USING REAL-TIME LABOR MARKET INFORMATION ON A NATIONWIDE SCALE

EXPLORING THE RESEARCH TOOL'S POTENTIAL VALUE TO FEDERAL AGENCIES AND NATIONAL TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

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Real-time labor market information is an emerging web tool for tracking the extent and nature of employers' demand for labor by occupation, industry, and geography. Real-time LMI vendors, both for-profit and nonprofit, regularly collect and aggregate job ads and analyze them to extract industry, occupational, skills, certification, wage, and geographic information.

Jobs for the Future's Credentials That Work initiative is testing and evaluating the use of real-time LMI to better align postsecondary education and training programs with current labor market demand, particularly at the community college level. While the initiative focuses on the uses of real-time LMI in local labor markets, it also seeks to understand the potential value of this data source to organizations with missions that are nationwide in scope, particularly federal agencies and national industry trade associations.

This brief examines the potential and limitations of real-time LMI for federal agencies and national trade associations. It finds that real-time LMI offers potential benefits for five activities conducted by these organizations:

- > Labor market research;
- > Preparing occupational profiles;

- > Statistical modeling;
- > Managing grant programs; and
- > Delivering constituent services.

In the small number of industries that have well-defined, widely accepted career ladders built on earning certifications in specific competencies, there appears to be less opportunity for real-time LMI to guide postsecondary education and training program development.

While it is clear that real-time LMI has the potential to be of significant value to both federal agencies and national trade associations, several barriers must be overcome:

- > Federal agencies and national associations need education about how real-time LMI can help them achieve their mission.
- > The real-time LMI industry must demonstrate improvements in the reliability of its information and provide analysts with measures of that reliability.
- > Federal agencies need congressional appropriations that allow them to subscribe to real-time LMI services.

Download the full report at <http://www.jff.org/publications/education/using-real-time-labor-market-information/1520>

Jobs for the Future works with our partners to design and drive the adoption of education and career pathways leading from college readiness to career advancement for those struggling to succeed in today's economy.



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