



## Upcoming Training

Barbara Ledvina, Analyst Resource Center

The Analyst Resource Center will be offering training for new DBAs or DBAs that wish to increase their level of expertise. A three-day training session will be held August 23-25 in St. Paul, MN. Topics that will be covered during this training include:

- An overview of the Workforce Information Database (WID) including the history of the WID, who uses the WID, how the structure is determined, and what deliverables are.
- A session covering the ARC and NCSC, including what they are and how they relate to the WID.
- A session on understanding the WID, basic terminology, versions of the WID, loading the WID, finding help, what the TEGL is, and how it pertains to you, plus you will learn about constraints, and deprecation.
- A session that delves deeper into the WID where you will learn about standard and non-standard tables. You will gain knowledge on CIPSEA and participate in a discussion on WID best practices. In addition, you will learn about the GEOG and EMPDB tables and their significance.
- Attendees will get hands on practice working with relational databases.
- And finally, a session devoted to data visualization – what it is and ways to achieve it.

This training will give you not only a wealth of information, but an opportunity to network with other DBAs and members of the Analyst Resource Center. You will have an opportunity to bring questions and concerns to the training and get assistance from the experts! *Continued on page 6*



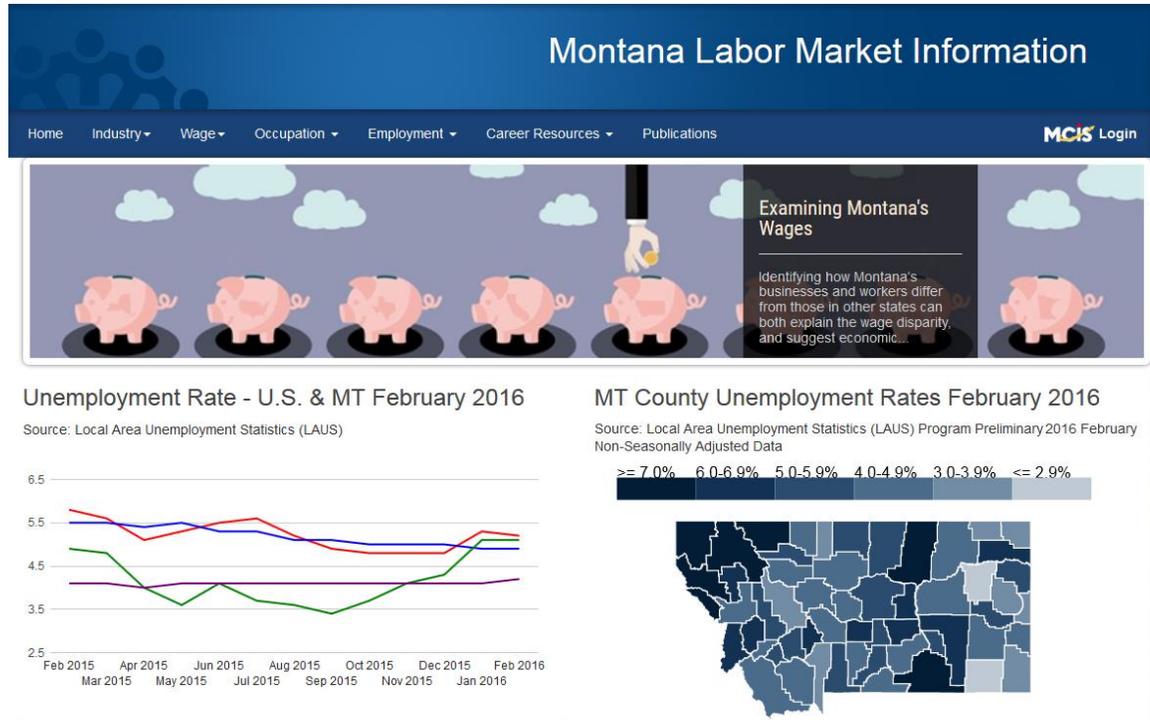
## O\*NET Through the Years

Steve Rosenow, National Crosswalk  
Service Center

The Employment and Training Administration's Occupational Information Network, or O\*NET, has both grown and evolved since the introduction of its first version in October of 1998. If you're not paying attention, you might miss some of the new activity. *Continued on page 7*

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The LMInformer Consortium was created when Ciber, Inc. decided to stop providing the Workforce Informer website. Montana, Nevada, Michigan, and Arkansas formed the consortium with the sole purpose of creating WID driven, customizable websites that cost significantly less than vendor based systems. Annual costs for hosting and maintaining the LMInformer are under \$25,000/year, considerably lower than the annual costs of the previous version created by Ciber.

The State of Montana hosted the Workforce Informer systems while the consortium members worked on developing the layout and functionality requirements of the new LMInformer. Montana is the consortium lead and worked with the developers from the Montana State Information Technology Services Division (SITSD) on programming the website. Montana launched their [website](#) on December 22, 2015. [Michigan](#) and [Nevada](#) will launch their sites in May. Arkansas is scheduled to launch in the near future.

Check out each of the websites (after they go live) to see how each state has designed their layouts. Components such as the rotating slider bar, maps, charts, tables etc. can be dropped in wherever a state would like them to show up. For instance Montana, Arkansas and Nevada have the data search tool on the home page and Michigan has it on its own page. Michigan is not using the rotating slider bar and has included some nice visualization on their population page that other states have not implemented. Montana includes a login to the Montana Career Information System (MCIS) on their website whereas the other states have not included this. Anything that a member state develops for their websites can be shared with the other consortium members for use on their websites, unless it is a map or chart from a vendor that requires a license.

States interested in learning more about the LMInformer Consortium and web product can contact Annette Miller at [anmiller@mt.gov](mailto:anmiller@mt.gov) or 406-444-2741.

## LEWIS Update

Steve Hine, Minnesota Labor Market Information

The Analyst Resource Center has been administering ETA's funding of LEWIS (the Local Employment and Wage Information System, previously known as the Estimates Delivery System or EDS) since 2012. With this additional duty came the responsibility for addressing some concerns that had been raised by the LMI community over the past few years. One such concern was the need to create a body that could represent the interests of the many constituents of LEWIS and guide the decisions necessary to sustain and grow the system. This was accomplished with the creation of the LEWIS Steering Committee, which held its first meeting in January 2015 with Andy Condon of CT as committee chair. A second concern was the need for a more descriptive brand that more clearly conveyed the value of this system. One of the most gratifying accomplishments of that first steering committee meeting was deciding on LEWIS as just the name to do that.

But the overarching worry that many had about the system was its sole reliance on one individual, Tom Price of North Carolina, for any and all maintenance and development of LEWIS since its official launch 14 years ago. Any user of the system that has turned to Tom for technical support and guidance over the years knows first-hand how difficult it was to imagine LEWIS surviving his eventual retirement. These worries were intensified when North Carolina announced an IT centralization that would all but ensure that Tom's availability as LEWIS guru would be limited.

After considerable technical discussions with Mr. Price, the great State of Utah and their Department of Workforce Services agreed to take on the challenge of LEWIS! For the past year, Stacey Joos, Skylar Spainhower and Steve Brock have been working closely with Tom Price to transfer all that code and knowledge from Raleigh to Salt Lake City.

Many states have been involved in testing the Utah version of LEWIS, and with their help, Utah feels confident that the system is ready for release a couple months ahead of an already ambitious schedule. Considering that states are presently in the middle of reviewing, producing and publishing May 2015 sub state estimates, the Utah system will be made available June 1, with the North Carolina system available through that time for those already using it. But in the near future, more specific information on Utah LEWIS will be made available, technical support will migrate to their incredible staff, and the system will have migrated onto a much firmer footing that will safeguard this crucial system in the years ahead. *(But just to be safe, we have retained Tom Price's services as technical consultant for the next fifteen months.)*



Amanda Rohrer

Amanda works for the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, and is a member of the Analyst Resource Center Consortium.

**How long have you been involved in the world of LMI?**

I started working on CES in 2008, moved to LAUS in 2010 and took on primary responsibility for the WID in 2014.

**What is your current job title?**

Research Analyst Specialist Senior, but my function is as the DBA for the WID and all of LMI's data.

**Are you originally from Minnesota?**

No. I'm from Iowa originally. I came here for grad school and never left, though every February I seriously consider it.

**What is your educational background?**

I got my undergraduate degree in Anthropology and Russian Studies from my hometown school, the University of Iowa, then got my Masters of Public Policy from the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota.

**What is the most rewarding aspect of your current job?**

I like solving problems. The whole process – identifying something that's wrong or doesn't work, then tracing it back to its source and figuring out what will fix it or even make it better than it was before – is really satisfying to me.

**What is the most frustrating or challenging aspect of your current job?**

There are so many different things going on that balancing routine and side projects and keeping everything running on schedule can be overwhelming.

**What is the most interesting or awe-inspiring place you have been to?**

Probably a toss-up between being led up hidden back staircases to see the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul from above and taking a train from Saint Petersburg to Sochi in the south of Russia – besides the massive scale of the country, the contrast between a city in the far north and palm trees in the far south made a big impression.

**What are your interests outside of work?**

I like to go exploring. With a job and young kids and daycare bills I don't have the time or the money to do everything I'd like at the moment, but close to home we never pass up a chance to check out a new pedestrian bridge or echo tunnel or dubiously maintained public staircase. I also drag the family out of the metro to see the waterfalls and Great Lakes vistas that are the most scenic parts of the Midwest.

**What is the strangest job you have ever had?**

I worked for the City of Saint Paul providing research support for the City Council members. I was hired to research problems stemming from a spike in vacant buildings during the recession, but was continuously reassigned to more urgent matters – questions about pigeon birth control (the Mayor's parking spot was under a nest), chocolate and wine tastings (writing letters to your lawmakers really does work), and proposals to regulate bars based on the music they play, among others. And my office was haunted. *Continued on page 7*

## Data Tools for State Economic Analysis

Steve Rosenow, National Crosswalk Service Center

Over the past several months, the ARC Structure Committee and NCSC have worked to expand the variety of datasets available for state workforce agencies to use in their analysis of economies at the state, and sometimes local, level. Employment, unemployment, hours and earnings, and industry trends combine to provide a solid base for analyzing the labor market. However, other economic forces also affect the lives of a state's citizens, sometimes in ways not reflected by the labor market. Recently added data sources or prototype tables and their usefulness in economic analysis include:



- Poverty Rates:** According to the Census Bureau, a significant portion (26 percent) of all counties experienced a statistically significant increase in their poverty rates between 2007 and 2014, while only one percent saw a statistically significant decrease. States can use these estimates to examine the possible impacts of increasing poverty on their service and related industries. The Structure Committee/NCSC have developed a table structure for these data and populated that structure with state and county data for the years 1989, 1993 and 1995-2014. The data source also includes estimates for over 13,000 school districts. The NCSC expects to make those estimates available in the future.
- State Tax Collections:** Tax structures vary widely among the states. Some states have no income tax, relying on other sources (energy, gaming, etc.) which may not be available to every state. These data, also Census Bureau estimates, can reflect changes in economic activity and reflect changes in state government resources over time.
- State Gross Domestic Product:** National Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is considered the broadest and most comprehensive measure of the nation's economic activity. State GDP estimates amount to an almost equally comprehensive look at similar state measures. Estimates are available for 1997 through 2014 by industry group by GDP component (nominal GDP, real GDP, employee compensation, subsidies, gross operating surplus, etc.)
- State Personal Consumption Expenditures:** Since the dawn of time, national personal consumption expenditures (PCE) have accounted for over 65 percent of GDP, sometimes approaching 70 percent. PCE consists of the value of goods and services purchased by or on behalf of households and spending of nonprofits serving households. State estimates are available for 1997-2014. Total and per capita estimates are available for various categories, most based on industries.
- ZIP Code Business Profiles:** The Census Bureau has been publishing annual County Business Patterns (CBP) data for decades. This data series contains firm counts and employment and payroll information by industry by county. They also publish ZIP Code Business Patterns which contain similar information: payroll, employment and establishment counts by business size class for ZIP codes. *Continued on page 6*

## Occupational Licensing Database Update

Steve Rosenow, National Crosswalk Service Center

States that have provided updated occupational licensing updates to the National Crosswalk Service Center over the past couple of years may have noticed an increased emphasis on enhancing the license-occupation crosswalk file included in the database. (LICXOCC in the WID, LICXONET for CareerOneStop use. See this [structure document](#) for differences between the two.) Increases in unemployment during the past recession and an increased interest in information about occupational licenses for use by separating military personnel have stimulated interest in the contents of the licensing database by policymakers and others. License titles and descriptions vary greatly among states, so the license-occupation crosswalk is the table that best lends itself to any type of analysis. The NCSC has developed a prototype set of license-occupation links for a number of licenses that can relate to multiple occupations (professional engineer, dentists, psychologists, physicians, etc.), and an [Excel version](#) of that list is available for downloading from the NCSC WID licensing page.

The NCSC will help states to modify their tables to include these relationships if necessary. Please feel free to direct questions and comments to Steve Rosenow at the NCSC at [ncsc.arc@iowa.gov](mailto:ncsc.arc@iowa.gov).

### ARC Newsletter

**Editors:** Steve Rosenow and Barbara Ledvina

If you have questions regarding the ARC eNews or would like to contribute information, please contact Steve Rosenow at 515-242-5034 or Email: [Steve.Rosenow@iowa.gov](mailto:Steve.Rosenow@iowa.gov) or Barbara Ledvina at 515-242-5036 or via Email: [Barbara.Ledvina@iowa.gov](mailto:Barbara.Ledvina@iowa.gov)

## Training *continued*

This training is being offered free of charge, and is on a first come, first serve basis. Space is limited, so you are encouraged to sign up early. All travel expenses including transportation, lodging and meals are the responsibility of attendees.

### Accommodations

A group rate of \$159.00 (plus taxes) is available at the Intercontinental Hotel (11 Kellogg Blvd East) This hotel is located within walking distance of the training facility. The deadline for getting the group rate is July 25, 2016. **To ensure you receive the group rate, please make your hotel reservation through the training registration link.**

### Training Registration

Registration for the training will open on April 28, 2016 and will close once all spots are filled. [Online Registration](#)

Questions regarding the training should be directed to Barbara Ledvina at 515-242-5036 or [barbara.ledvina@iowa.gov](mailto:barbara.ledvina@iowa.gov)

## Data Tools *continued*

Information, including structure documents and populated tables, are available on the NCSC's WID [Non-Standard Tables](#) page. The state tax collections table is included there because the addition of the Census Bureau data resulted in the creation of a number of new tax type values for the existing TAX table. All of the other tables are prototypes. They may eventually make their way into the Workforce Information Database if sufficient interest, indicated by file downloads, is shown.

Feel free to suggest changes to these tables or propose other new content by contacting Steve Rosenow at the NCSC at [ncsc.arc@iowa.gov](mailto:ncsc.arc@iowa.gov).

## Spotlight *continued*

### Have you read any good books lately (personal or work related) that you would recommend to others?

I read a lot of eBooks, but have lately started to worry that my kids aren't seeing me reading and are just seeing me staring at screens all the time, so I've been focusing on reading things that are actually better in print – namely comic books and graphic novels. A few I've enjoyed lately are Grayson and Velvet, both spy stories, and Bombshells, which reimagines well-known superheroes in WWII.

### What training have you taken recently that you would recommend to other DBAs?

I'm still pretty new at this and my recent training has all been SQL and database design type stuff that people with formal training would already know, but getting that background now has helped enormously.

### What about your family?

My husband and I like to cook and explore different cultures through cuisines. We go to specialty and ethnic grocery stores as often as the big box ones and lay a pretty good spread every day. Our sons (5 and 2 years old) enjoy our cooking well enough, but they still think Kraft mac and cheese is the pinnacle of excellence.

The Workforce Information Database is a normalized, relational database structure developed for the storage and maintenance of labor market, economic, demographic and occupational information. The Analyst Resource Center is responsible for the Workforce Information Database structure development, update, and maintenance. Current members include Minnesota (lead), Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Texas, and ETA, along with the support from the National Crosswalk Service Center.

## O\*NET *continued*

Here's an overview of the major changes introduced into the database over time:

- **April 2016:** Version 20.3 – Incremental update including revisions to Lay/Alternate Titles and Tools & Technology.
- **February 2016:** Version 20.2 – Incremental update including revisions to Lay/Alternate Titles and Tools & Technology.
- **October 2015:** Version 20.1 – Special release incorporating previously supplemental files with updates to Lay/Alternate Titles and Tools & Technology.
- **February 2014:** Version 18.1 – Addition of newly developed Detailed Work Activities (DWA).
- **July 2011:** Version 16.0 – O\*NET taxonomy revised to incorporate 2010 SOC. First with data updates.
- **February 2011:** Version 15.1 – O\*NET taxonomy revised to incorporate 2010 SOC. Preview release: no data updates.
- **June 2009:** Version 14.0 – addition of 153 new and emerging occupations.
- **June 2006:** Version 10.0 – first revision of O\*NET taxonomy since version 4.0. Still based on 2000 SOC.
- **April 2003:** Version 5.0 – first update with info from the Data Collection Program.
- **June 2002:** Version 4.0 -- last version to include only analyst-derived data.
- **August 2000:** Initial release with Standard Occupational Classification-based occupations.
- **October 1998:** Initial release using five-digit OES codes with some variables populated after a review of Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) data by occupational analysts.

For a more detailed look at changes to the database, see the O\*NET Center's [Database Update Summary](#) document.

Watch this newsletter for more information about other enhancements in both the content and delivery of information related to the O\*NET classification.