



UK COMMISSION FOR
EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

Information to Local Intelligence: Guidance on Local Labour Market Assessments

Briefing paper: Revised edition
August 2014

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1 Introduction

This document sets out guidance for local partners in the area of Labour Market Information (LMI) and its conversion, through interpretation, into intelligence. It has been produced by the **UK Commission for Employment and Skills** as a key player in producing and raising awareness of local LMI to inform debate and decision-making, especially on skills issues. This is a revised edition of the document first published in December 2013.

There is agreement across the four UK national governments that approaches to sub-national economic development and growth should include skills policy that has been informed by sub-national LMI. At the local level, it is particularly important to stimulate and disseminate awareness of the availability and quality of LMI to inform decision making and to use and interpret different sources alongside each other. Whilst, at the time of writing, there is no specific requirement on local partners in England to produce particular LMI outputs, the role of LMI in contributing to local labour market assessments is critical.

This guidance emphasizes the need to bring together information from ‘top down’ data sources (such as data from national surveys, disaggregated by geography, sector, etc.) with ‘bottom up’ intelligence (including more in-depth, specialist analysis and insight from local and other stakeholders and individuals on experiences and perceptions), in order to achieve a comprehensive and unrivalled understanding of local skills issues. Good use of LMI can improve both the short- and long-term matches of labour supply and demand, ensuring that individuals acquire the skill sets required by employers in a dynamic labour market.

This guide:

- Provides an overview of the **factors** a local labour market assessment might cover;
- Highlights **good practice** in the use of LMI in helping to develop local labour market assessments, turning information into intelligence;
- Provides information on how to **overcome challenges** in producing a local labour market assessment;
- Provides guidance on how data and research from the **UK Commission for Employment and Skills** can help; and
- Highlights some of the **key sources** available for local labour market assessments for use by policy makers, labour market intermediaries, employers and individuals.

2 Local labour market assessments

2.1 What to include

There is no single correct way of structuring a local labour market assessment or a definitive list of what it should contain. Local labour market assessments should draw on a wide range of data sources, including robust, recognised secondary data such as national statistics, as well as qualitative research. To ensure assessments are authoritative and have value to local partners it is important to design methodologies that enable the views of local partners and other stakeholders to be incorporated into the analysis. It is also important that assessments have a context and narrative in order to aid interpretation.

There are some sources of guidance available, particularly from the time when the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009¹ included a duty from 2010 (now rescinded) on upper tier local authorities in England to prepare a **Local Economic Assessment (LEA)**, bringing together data and intelligence in order to construct a single evidence base. Initial guidance was set out by the Department for Communities and Local Government (2009) and subsequent publications identifying best practice on how to undertake an LEA were developed in response to emerging work². Guidance indicated that key themes to include were spatial context and connections; demography; inclusion; employment; skills; enterprise and business; land, buildings and infrastructure; and the environment. It was intended that LEAs should:

- provide a sound understanding of the economic conditions in an area and how they affect residents and businesses;
- identify the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the local economy and the nature of form of local economic challenges and opportunities;
- identify the local economic geography, including the economic linkages between the area being assessed and the wider economy; and
- identify the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the local economy and the nature of form of local economic challenges and opportunities;

and so inform and influence future strategy.

¹ See Part 4 of http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/20/pdfs/ukpgaen_20090020_en.pdf

² For example, see http://www.local.gov.uk/economy/-/journal_content/56/10180/3510468/ARTICLE

Such an analysis provides a powerful understanding of factors which shape skills and employment demand and how they might change in time; current responsiveness of the market and the behaviour of individuals, government and employers; and an opportunity to address current needs while being firmly focused on ensuring a skilled workforce for the future.

Some local authorities and many LEPs in England are now producing LEAs to aid the development of their strategic approaches to economic growth and consequent action plans. In general the content of these is similar to the original guidance, although there are some differences in detail. It is in this context that this guidance on local labour market assessments for local partners has been developed.

2.2 A strategic framework for local skills analysis

The UK Commission proposed a strategic framework for thinking and action on the skills and employment agenda in its Ambition 2020 report³. This framework links together the various dimensions of skills and employment policy and practice into a system and provides a useful tool to translate the skills and employment elements of an LEA into potential routes to action.

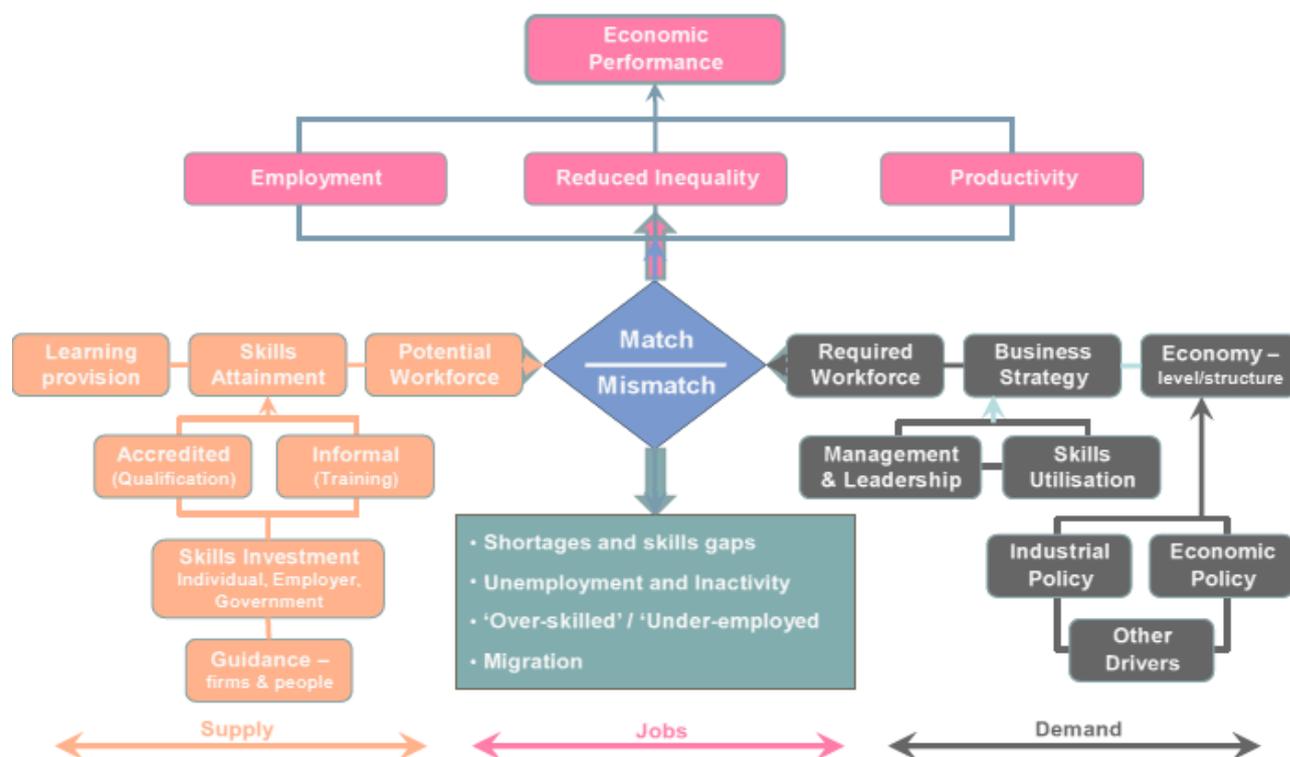
The broad framework is set out in Diagram 1, and is split into three central themes:

- the characteristics of labour **supply** - the number of people who could potentially work, the likelihood of those people actually participating in the labour market and the skills they have (or might develop);
- the composition of labour **demand** and how it is changing – the number of people employed, the type of work they do and the use of their skills, influenced by business strategy, government policy and other factors; and
- the **matching** of supply and demand – the top part of the diagram illustrates the benefits to be achieved where supply meets demand, whilst the bottom box illustrates what happens when it does not.

An excess of skills supply over skills demand is measured conventionally as unemployment; (although some individuals may not participate in the labour market and so become economically inactive). An excess of skills demand over skills supply is measured conventionally in terms of skill shortage vacancies; (although these are not necessarily guaranteed if employers react by changing their business model to obviate such shortages).

³ Ambition 2020: World Class Skills and Jobs for the UK (2009), UKCES

Diagram 1: A conceptual framework for local skills analysis



In the following sections, the guide details aspects and measures of skills supply, demand and mismatch in more detail. Details of sources for both national and local level data on each dimension of the framework are given in Annex 1.

Skills supply

In order to measure skills and labour supply, it is necessary to have data on the number of people who could potentially work and the likelihood of those people actually participating in the labour market. From equality, diversity and planning perspectives (for employers and other stakeholders) it is important to know the current (and projected future) composition of labour supply by age, gender and ethnic group.⁴

Other important aspects of supply essential in assessing the skills of the local labour market include:

- highest educational qualifications of the population and workforce;⁵
- participation in education and training by type/ level/ subject;⁶

⁴ The Annual Population Survey is a key data source here for up-to-date time series information, while the Census of Population has provided detailed information on a decennial basis.

⁵ The Annual Population Survey is a key data source here for up-to-date time series information, while the Census of Population has provided detailed information on a decennial basis.

⁶ Information from Higher Education Funding Councils/ Higher Education Statistics Agency and Skills Funding Agency is of relevance here, and the Annual Population Survey also provides data on participation from an individual perspective.

- employer investment in skills – this is ever more important in a rapidly changing economic environment, where an employer’s ability to adapt to change can be critical to their survival and where an individual’s ability to develop or adapt their skills can be so important to their employment prospects;⁷
- barriers to skills development, for employers and individuals and local partners⁸.

These data are important indicators of the nature and level of skilled labour and where data can be available at the local level.

Skills demand

Aspects of skills and labour demand worthy of coverage in a local labour market assessment include:

- number of people employed;⁹
- forecast employment data;¹⁰
- hours of work;¹¹
- sectoral structure of employment - provides an indication of demand for skilled labour;¹²
- occupational structure of employment - also provides an indication of demand for skilled labour;¹³
- qualifications of the employed workforce - this provides an indicator of demand for skills;¹⁴

Other key features related to skills demand are:

- overall economic competitiveness and productivity;¹⁵
- births and deaths of establishments;¹⁶
- wage levels;¹⁷

⁷ The UK Commission’s Employer Skills Survey provides investment in skills data and barriers to (greater) investment.

⁸ The UK Commission’s Employer Skills Survey provides data on barriers to skills development faced by employers.

⁹ The Annual Population Survey and the Census of Population are key sources.

¹⁰ Working Futures from UKCES is a key data source.

¹¹ The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is a key data source.

¹² The Business Register and Employment Survey is a key data source.

¹³ The Annual Population Survey and the Census of Population are key sources.

¹⁴ The Annual Population Survey and the Census of Population are key sources

¹⁵ Measured using Gross Value Added (GVA)

¹⁶ Measured using the ONS Business Demography dataset

¹⁷ Local level data (regions and local authorities) is available through the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings from ONS

- returns by qualifications provides an indicator of demand (although this data is not often available at the local level);¹⁸
- skill use measures;¹⁹
- high performance working practices;²⁰
- sectoral and/or occupational trends.²¹

Measurement of unmet demand – an illustration of the dynamism and range of data sources:

- Until November 2012 monthly local data on vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus (the Public Employment Service for Great Britain) was published on Nomis (<http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>). These represented a minority of vacancies in the economy and had a bias towards less skilled occupations.
- This system has been replaced by Universal Jobmatch, which has not yet yielded reliable local data.
- The UK Commission for Employment and Skills Employer Skills Survey includes headline information at local level (for higher level local authorities, and for LEP areas in England) on vacancies, hard-to-fill vacancies and skills shortage vacancies (i.e. when a business fails to recruit due to applicants not having the right skills or work), measured every 2 years.

Skills match/mismatch

The *matching* or *mismatching* of labour and skills supply and demand in a local labour market area is reflected in a number of ways:

- unemployment and persistent high levels of worklessness can indicate deficiency of demand or a poor match between the characteristics of labour supply and demand;²²

¹⁸ Labour Force Survey data is useful here (see ONS website)

¹⁹ UKCES Employer Skills Survey provides this from the employer perspective

²⁰ UKCES Employer Skills Survey and other sources such as Workplace Employee Relations Survey (although this does not provide data at the local level).

²¹ UKCES sector skills assessments are useful here.

²² Unemployment stocks and flows are available monthly at the local level from the Claimant Count and also from the Annual Population Survey, and can provide an indicator of economic trends, but there is limited up-to-date information on the size of the potential workforce with which to calculate unemployment rates for sub-groups. It is also important to understand how the local population is responding to local economic trends and changes in benefit regimes, in terms of labour market participation rates and the claiming of benefits.

- under-use of skills, reported by employers and individuals, might reflect the existence of a ‘low skills equilibrium’ – i.e. low levels of demand for skills due to the product/market service strategies businesses adopt, and which can hold back economic performance.
- unmet demand for labour can be measured by vacancies – but the measurement of vacancies is problematical, because some vacancies are notified to the public employment service, some are advertised formally and some are advertised informally. More than one method may be used for a given vacancy, so leading to possible double (or multiple) counting (see box above);²³
- recruitment difficulties and skill shortages, which can have a significant impact on business performance;²⁴
- skills gaps whereby staff lack proficiency to do their job;²⁵
- commuting and migration – high levels of commuting and migration may indicate deficiencies in availability of skilled labour locally;²⁶

2.3 Looking to the future and anticipating what lies ahead

Local labour market assessments need to take account of potential future developments. Although we cannot predict the future we can make a systematic assessment of the direction of travel in the labour market. Where possible it is useful to examine quantitative labour market projections alongside more qualitative foresight research. Qualitative foresight approaches can involve an examination of the key trends that will shape the future development of the UK labour market, the **potential disruptions** that could lead to a sharp deviation from these established trends and alternative scenarios of the future. Key trends might include, for example, economic and labour market trends, developments in science and technology as well as environmental change, and changing perceptions and values. The UK Commission’s recent study *The Future of Work: Jobs and skills in 2030* provides an example of this foresight approach²⁷.

²³ Further information on vacancy measures can be found on the ONS website and the UKCES Employer Skills Survey is a useful source of local data on vacancy trends

²⁴ The UKCES Employer Skills Survey is a key data source here, providing headline figures at local level.

²⁵ The UKCES Employer Skills Survey is a key data source here, providing headline figures at local level.

²⁶ ONS is a key source of data

²⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jobs-and-skills-in-2030>

In terms of quantitative projections, the *Working Futures* labour market model²⁸ offers a useful resource. It provides an assessment of likely future trends in occupational employment by industry sector and geographic area, as well as projections of replacement demands – the number of job openings that are created by workers leaving the labour force due to retirement family reasons and retirement. Indicative analysis of sectoral and occupational trends is available for sub-national areas in the devolved nations and for Local Enterprise Partnership areas in England. It is important to note that *Working Futures* data should be seen as providing only part of the picture, and should be combined with other local sources of intelligence.

²⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-futures-2012-to-2022>

3 Best practice: Turning information into intelligence

LMI is a term that is used to describe raw data in the form of ‘hard’, quantitative data, or ‘soft’ qualitative information. This raw data from original sources needs to be converted, through analysis and interpretation, into intelligence about what is happening in the labour market or in employment and any associated implications for employers, individuals, intermediaries and government. In other words, labour market information is used as a tool in creating labour market intelligence. Local partners creating a local labour market assessment will collect and collate LMI, and then analyse and contextualise it before translating the messages into action and communicating to a number of different audiences. Findings from research, feedback from stakeholders and policy evaluation will then be used to inform the development of future strategy. The stages in this process are described in more detail below.

Stage 1: LMI collection and collation

Bringing together LMI from a range of reliable and robust sources, and filling gaps with primary research (as necessary). This involves:

- Identifying key sources and accessing up to date LMI from robust, recognised secondary data sources. Key sources and data repositories are listed in Annex 1;
- Using standard definitions and codes (based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) and Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes) to ensure consistency and comparability across time and geographies, and to national sources;
- Benchmarking data for your locality against UK/ national/ regional averages and comparator local areas.

Stage 2: Analysis and contextualisation

Turning information into intelligence by undertaking rigorous and authoritative analysis of the local labour market. This involves:

- Synthesising and contextualising the evidence collected and collated by bringing together a wide range of reliable sources of information and undertaking rigorous analysis of it;
- Undertaking in-depth analyses of current trends in skills in the local labour market;
- Undertaking in-depth analyses that anticipate the likely impacts of future labour market change and associated skills implications;

- Presenting collated evidence to partners to test analysis and gather contextual/explanatory evidence and identify gaps in evidence.

Stage 3: Supplementary research and evidence gathering

- Fill any key information gaps by conducting new (perhaps collaborative) research (carried out in-house or contracted out), in accordance with relevant professional standards for research (see Annex 2).

Stage 4: Translating to Action

There are no simple ways of identifying priorities for action, no single source provides an easy formula for prioritising issues and pointing to remedies. This involves:

- Consider how the problems presented might be best tackled by proposed solutions – that there is a clear ‘logic chain’ in the translation from problem to action;
- Discussion and engagement with partners and policy makers;
- Identifying what has been successful in local policy implementation and what has worked less well through evaluation (not the subject of this guide);
- Accessing policy reviews - UKCES provides a reference point;²⁹
- Being clear on the criteria for prioritisation and on the evidence presented against the criteria;
- Testing new policy and ideas before full implementation.

Stage 5: Communication

Ensuring that the evidence is accessible to different audiences, so influencing change. This involves:

- Succinctly articulating an assessment of the current position, future trends and priorities, showing how these flow from a sound evidence base;
- Publishing and disseminating LMI and outputs, making them available to users via appropriate media;
- Giving key local partners and other stakeholders an opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on research findings;
- Avoiding presenting misleading information;

²⁹ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130904005816/http://www.ukces.org.uk/ourwork/employer-collective-measures>

- Transparency in terms of the dating and referencing of sources of information and the methods used in any original primary research, so that users can easily make judgements on the quality of the work;
- Being clear in the balance of information used and the weight applied to different sources.

4 Overcoming challenges in producing a local labour market assessment

4.1 The nature of the challenges

There has been a history of challenges with the system of collecting LMI in the UK. Back in 1999, the Skills Task Force in England judged 'that there was too much data overall' and that 'what there was [was] inconsistent and incoherent' (DfEE, 1999, p. 87). A few years later the Leitch Review of Skills concluded that there is 'little coordination between different sources [of LMI], meaning that in some instances they deliver contradictory information' (HM Treasury, 2006, p. 91). But having more than one data source is not necessarily a disadvantage; analysts can investigate the sources of contradictions that do emerge, and this may add to understanding of the characteristics and functioning of local labour markets.

There have been problems with inconsistencies in measurement, definitions and approaches, and a lack of clarity over which sources are reliable and where to find information. It is for this reason that the UKCES has worked with partners to produce the first UK harmonized Employer Skills Survey, providing a consistent, robust source of data on a regular (every 2 years) cycle.

There has also been an over-reliance on the collection of hard statistical data, perhaps even where population sizes do not allow, at the expense of rich qualitative information/interpretation - a combination and triangulation of the two types of data is needed to support well-informed decisions, and to provide a sound basis for policy action.

Availability of more than one information source on a particular topic emphasises the importance of **assessing the reliability and validity** of LMI. It is good practice to ask the following questions of any data source:

- Who produced the LMI?
- What methodology was used for collecting the LMI? – e.g. a census, a sample survey (and if so what was the sampling frame, the sample size and the sampling methodology used?³⁰), administrative records, etc.
- What is the geographical basis for data collection? – e.g. does the data relate to residence in an area (residence-based information) or to workers/ businesses in an area (workplace-based information)?³¹

³⁰ At local level, it is particularly important to recognise the limitations of sample surveys – sampling error can be large with significant variation between time periods. This means that change from time t to time t+1 may reflect statistical 'noise' rather than 'real change'.

- What is the maximum level of spatial disaggregation? – it is important to note that information at coarser spatial levels (e.g. regions/ nations), as well as local information, may have a valuable role to play in a local labour market assessment.
- How is the LMI disaggregated and classified? – e.g. are standard systems of industrial and occupational classification used?
- Is the LMI up-to-date? – when does it relate to? how timely is it? what is the frequency of updating? is the situation likely to have changed since the time the data relates to?
- Are data sources comparable and consistent over time? – this is important when examining trends over time.
- On the basis of answers to the questions above, is LMI fit for purpose?

4.2 Defining local labour market and geographical units

With regard to local economic and labour market assessments, there have been issues around the local geographical units that are used, particularly whether they are administrative units or represent the functional economic geography of local areas. Local labour market assessments have been produced for a range of geographical units. Local labour markets are defined conventionally as geographical areas in which interactions between the demand for and supply of labour occur on a regular basis and which are relatively self-contained in terms of commuting flows. Therefore they are crucially influenced by the geographical distribution of work opportunities, the location of people available to work and the commuting patterns of workers. Government statisticians have used data from each Census of Population since 1971 to define ‘travel to work areas’ (TTWAs) which represent local labour market areas. These are defined as areas in which, generally, more than 75 per cent of the population work and in which over 75 per cent of jobs are filled by people who live in the TTWA. Hence they may be thought of as functional economic areas.

³¹ It is important to be aware of whether information is on a residence- or a workplace-basis when geographical units used relate to administrative rather than functional economic areas (see later discussion).

The current set of TTWAs was created by classifying 2001 Census commuting flows (between electoral wards) into 243 geographical units covering the entire UK. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) webpage describing these TTWAs and providing links to lists, maps and methodology documents is at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/beginner-s-guide/other/travel-to-work-areas/index.html>. ONS plans to create a new set of TTWAs based on 2011 Census commuting patterns in 2015. As commuting patterns have become more diverse and distances travelled to work have grown over time, so the number of TTWAs has declined (there were 378 TTWAs created from 1981 commuting patterns) and TTWAs have become larger. However, TTWAs are derived on the basis of aggregate commuting flows and women, young people, minority ethnic groups, less skilled and part-time workers tend to travel shorter distances than average and would therefore have smaller local labour market areas.³²

TTWA definitions are made available in terms of maps and the micro area level Lower Layer Super Output Areas/ Datazones/ Super Output Areas which comprise each. These can be compared with other geographies to indicate whether local authority districts or unitary authorities are reasonable approximations of local labour market areas and whether / how neighbouring areas should be amalgamated.

TTWAs were created originally in order that meaningful local unemployment rates could be calculated using workplace-based employment data and residence-based unemployment data. There has been increasing use of local authority areas and other policy-relevant local areas – notably Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas in England – for local labour market assessments. The extent to which local authority and LEP areas match functional economic geographies, relating to the real area that an economy operates over³³ varies, as well as being simply administrative boundaries, varies. There may be distinctive functional relationships within and across administrative boundaries.

³² There is a study of the different commuting patterns of full- and part-time workers on the Neighbourhood Statistics website: <http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=analysisandguidance/analysisarticles/location-and-commuting-patterns-of-part-time-and-full-time-workers.htm>

³³ For an exposition in relation to one particular sub-region in central England see: [http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/wccweb.nsf/Links/E0DA25CC92C9AA14802578500039F258/\\$file/CWLocalEconomicAssessmentFEGTopicPaper.pdf](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/wccweb.nsf/Links/E0DA25CC92C9AA14802578500039F258/$file/CWLocalEconomicAssessmentFEGTopicPaper.pdf)

4.3 What if the data boundaries do not match the analysis boundaries?

Geography lies at the heart of a local labour market assessment. However, this does not mean that the only information of value for a local labour market assessment is that relating to the local labour market area that is the focus of attention. Regional and UK-wide sources are also of relevance; moreover a greater range of robust information sources exist at national and regional than at local level. It is important to interpret such sources in the light of local knowledge and intelligence, and to place the experience of the local labour market alongside comparator local areas and regional/ national/ international benchmarks.

4.4 Dynamism of the information base

The information base is dynamic. Information currently available may not be available in the future and new information sources (or compendia of existing sources) are likely to emerge. It is important to keep abreast of developments – including consultations by ONS on their plans.

5 How the UK Commission for Employment and Skills can help

The UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) has expanded its LMI significantly to provide much of the skills data required for a labour market assessment at a local level, including data on skills shortages and gaps, employer investment in skills, and current and forecast occupational and sectoral employment levels and trends. These sources are explored in more detail below. Annex 1 lists a range of additional data resources that can be used in conjunction with the UKCES product range to provide robust LMI input to the three elements of the conceptual framework for skills analysis presented in Diagram 1.

The UKCES research product portfolio covers three strategic areas:

- Labour Market Information: understanding the labour market and business behaviour
- Evaluative research: understanding what works in policy and practice and encouraging continuous improvement, and
- Insights: drawing insights from best practice in the UK and abroad.

Some of our core research products are increasingly recognised as vital sources of business intelligence and these provide a rich source of data available at the local and regional level³⁴. Our key products are large scale, robust surveys including the Employer Skills Survey, Employer Perspectives Survey and Working Futures. The information available can support local policy makers in robustly providing:

Intelligence to tackle topics of interest or develop strategies. For instance: to understand the skills challenges employers face within the context of the industrial strategy sectors, and how they might be addressed; employer attitudes towards the recruitment of young people and how to address negative or ambivalent attitudes; the awareness and use of specific government recognised schemes and services, such as apprenticeships and; comparison of skills gaps within the UK nations, between localities or sectors.

Sectoral insights to review sector skills needs, understand variation and inform labour market priorities. For instance to understand the type of training employers and employees need, and how this varies. These insights are drawn from national datasets and other sources and provide an important basis for informing local level assessment on a sectoral basis.

³⁴ For example, UKCES data features prominently in the Liverpool City Region Skills for Growth study: <http://www.lcrskillsforgrowth.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/LCR-Skills-for-Growth-Annual-Report-2013.pdf>

A robust benchmark against which to compare other sources or research and a consistent source of data to draw upon in discussion with other partners. For instance to track change in the local labour market and the way in which this compares with other localities or the regional position.

A forward looking view of structural changes in the labour market, including how different occupational groups compare in terms of likely job prospects, the likely labour requirements of key industry sectors and expected sources of employment growth, locally and nationally.

The UK Commission data sources and intelligence can be accessed as follows:

LMI data	
Employer Skills Survey (ESS)	<p>UK-wide biennial survey of over 90,000 businesses providing a comprehensive picture of skills needs and training investment, including vacancies and skills shortages, employee skill gaps and the recruitment of education leavers and young people: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ukces-employer-skills-survey-2013 Local evidence toolkits for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can also be found on this page.</p> <p>ESS England Local Evidence Toolkits: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-skills-survey-local-data</p>
Employer Perspectives Survey (EPS)	<p>UK wide survey of 15,000 employers looking at approaches to recruitment; awareness and use of skills support services/initiatives; engagement with external training providers; use of vocational qualifications and apprenticeships; use of work placements; and the recruitment of young people: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/employer-perspectives-survey</p> <p>And EPS local level data: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-perspectives-survey-local-data</p>
Working Futures	<p>Presenting employment projections (2012 to 2022) on the future demand for skills as measured by occupation and qualification and a detailed analysis of prospects by industry and geographical</p>

	area: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-futures-2012-to-2022
Evaluative research (examples)	
Qualitative Evaluation of the Employer Investment Fund and Growth and Innovation Fund (EIF and GIF)	Findings from the qualitative evaluation of the UKCES investment funds. Provides insights on the development and delivery of skills solutions and identifies learning, challenges and 'what works'. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualitative-evaluation-of-ukces-investment-funds
Occupational regulation	Explores the design, implementation and impact of voluntary and mandatory occupational regulation in the UK: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/understanding-occupational-regulation
Insights (examples)	
Review of Employer Collective Measures	This project explored the levers of employer investment in skills and whether these are suboptimal. It also explored the effectiveness of levers available to encourage employers to invest collectively in skills: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130904005816/http://www.ukces.org.uk/ourwork/employer-collective-measures (note this publication series is held on the national archives site)
Valuing Your Talent	A new research and engagement programme in collaboration with Investors in People, CIPD, CMI, CIMA and the RSA to help employers understand how to measure the impact their people have on the performance of their organisation: http://www.cipd.co.uk/hr-resources/valuing-your-talent.aspx
Sector Skills Insights	A series of reports looking at individual sectors, the performance challenges they face and the benefits gained from overcoming them: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sector-skills-insights-reports

<p>The supply of and demand for high level STEM skills</p>	<p>Analysis of the supply of and demand for high-level science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills by sector and region.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-level-stem-skills-supply-and-demand</p>
<p>Rebalancing the economy sectorally and spatially: An evidence review</p>	<p>This report draws on an extensive review of relevant conceptual, empirical, policy and evaluation literature from the UK and abroad to understand the rationale and effectiveness of government intervention to rebalance the economy sectorally and spatially.</p> <p>http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140320161942/http://www.ukces.org.uk/publications/er33-rebalancing-the-economy (note this publication is held on the national archives site)</p>

UKCES has also launched “LMI for all” which aims to create an online data portal to bring together existing labour market information. The first pilot version of LMI for All was released in May 2013 with a final version due for release in March 2015. This is an open data project, which supports the wider government agenda to encourage use and re-use of government datasets. The data portal makes it easier for developers to create apps and websites which will help individuals and businesses make informed decisions about careers and learning options: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lmi-for-all-briefing-paper>

For guidance or support in the use of these datasets, please contact UK Commission for Employment and Skills: info@ukces.org.uk

Annex 1: Data sources and analytical tools

Key LMI data sources

Many of the sources given below are provided by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) but are listed alongside a range of other data sources and repositories which together can create a robust local level input to labour market assessments. These sources can be mapped to the conceptual framework in diagram 1.

Skills Supply	<p>The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is a key source of LMI. Its (large and complex) website has a series of pages devoted to labour market analysis and the main data series. An introductory page contains links to many of the data sets (categorised by theme) mentioned below, together with descriptions of their properties and data collection methodology – see http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html.</p>
Skills Supply	<p>A key source of data on the population is the decennial Census of Population, which provides the most complete picture of the population, and which is used as the starting point for annual estimates of the population. For information on the 2011 Census of Population see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html for England and Wales;• http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/en/ for Scotland; and• http://www.nisra.gov.uk/Census.html (for Northern Ireland). <p>The Census provides detailed local data on the age and gender breakdown of the population and estimates of minority and equality groups. It provides data on the industry and occupation of workers by place of residence, the industrial and occupational breakdown of jobs and the commuting flows of workers to jobs. The Annual Population Estimates demonstrate how the structure of a local authority's population is changing between Censuses and it provides denominators for the calculation of the unemployment proportion. Data from the 2011 Census and mid-year population estimates are available from the Nomis website - http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/</p>

Skills Supply	<p>The Business Register and Employment Survey (which in 2009 replaced the earlier <i>Annual Business Inquiry and Census of Employment</i>) is a key source for local employment data – see http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/labour-market/business-register-and-employment-survey--bres-/index.html. Local data from all three surveys is provided via Nomis, to those who have obtained a Chancellor of the Exchequer’s Notice. Publication of data is subject to strict rules and data must not be disseminated to those without a Notice. Employment numbers are disaggregated by industry using the Standard Industrial Classification current at the time (with detail to the 4 digit level) and full-time/part-time status. The BRES also distinguishes working employers from employees.</p>
Skills Supply	<p>The Annual Population Survey (APS) also presents information on aspects of employment. It is a boosted version of the Labour Force Survey (LFS), containing the same questions. The LFS/APS yields a vast amount of information on the characteristics of employed and unemployed people and can produce data on both a residence and workplace basis, albeit the main emphasis is on the former.</p> <p>The LFS can only yield reliable data for regions, but the APS sample is large enough to provide data for local authority districts. For less populous districts, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates of detailed breakdowns to be presented. The APS is published for rolling 12 month periods, with standard tables available for local authority districts on the Nomis website. Microdata can be ordered from the UK Data Archive which can be used to create bespoke tables in a survey data analysis package such as SPSS, but many variables are suppressed in order to preserve confidentiality. There are restrictions on the purposes microdata can be used for and on its further dissemination. Some statistics from the APS are available via Nomis, and other portals (e.g. see http://data.gov.uk/dataset/annual_population_survey_for_wales for Wales) and some publications specifically based on APS data are published (e.g. http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00421587.pdf for Scotland).</p>

Skills Supply	<p>Further education leavers average earnings data from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) – England only data. These datasets provide earnings and employment outcomes of further education learners, created using matched data from several government departments. The data are highly experimental, and work is continuing to understand the most suitable way to interpret the results given the current limitations. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-education-learners-average-earnings-initial-outputs-of-emerging-results-from-earnings-analysis-of-matched-data</p>
Skills Supply	<p>The UKCES Employer Skills Survey (ESS) is a UK-wide biennial survey of over 90,000 businesses, providing comparisons by sector, size and geography (UK, nations and regions of England) for many variables relating to employment and skills (https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ukces-employer-skills-survey-2013). Data are available by upper tier local authorities and LEPs in England (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-skills-survey-local-data). Skills supply topics covered by the ESS include training, investment in and barriers to training, and workforce development.</p>
Skills Demand	<p>The Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) is the sampling frame used by BRES. Local data is also available from the IDBR in the ONS products on business demography and geographical location.</p>
Skills Demand	<p>The ONS publication Business Demography: Enterprise Births and Deaths (http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/bus-register/business-demography/index.html) was introduced in 2009 (for the reference period 2008 onwards) following a new European Commission Structural Business Statistics Regulation which came into force in February 2008. Data is presented by (SIC 2007) industry section and survival rates (up to 5 years) are presented. Previously, information on business dynamics came from VAT registrations and de-registrations, available via Nomis for local authority districts and larger geographical areas.</p>
Skills Demand	<p>The ONS publication UK Business: Activity, Size and Location (http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/bus-register/uk-business/2013/index.html) presents data at local authority level on the number of establishments and local units by size band and industry section. Greater industrial detail is also presented for regions and for the UK as a whole.</p>

Skills Demand	<p>Looking to the future the UKCES's Working Futures provides time-series data and projections of employment by sector, occupation, gender and employment status for the nations of the UK and the regions of England. Working Futures reports are available via the UK Commission for Employment and Skills website - https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-futures-2012-to-2022 In addition to the published reports available, there is also a body of microdata that can be accessed via a dedicated Working Futures data portal. This includes indicative estimates and projections for local geographies. For England, sub-regional analysis is available down to the level of Local Enterprise Partnerships; for Wales down to Economic Regions; and for Scotland, Scottish Enterprise Regions. This analysis is widely used by colleges, local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships. For reasons of data confidentiality access to microdata is only available to analysts who hold a Chancellor of the Exchequer's Notice.</p>
Skills Demand	<p>The UKCES Employer Skills Survey (ESS) also provides data on demand measures including business strategies; and high performance working practices and skill utilisation (see links above).</p>
Skills Demand	<p>The UKCES Employer Perspectives Survey is the second of two major employer surveys from the UKCES. This focuses on how employers meet their skill needs, and their interface with the skills system. Topics covered include recruitment; whether engaged with vocational training and apprenticeships; young people and work experience.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/employer-perspectives-survey</p> <p>Data are available at regional level (England only) and are useful for providing insights into recruitment and training activity.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-perspectives-survey-local-data</p>
Skills demand	<p>The ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings provides regional and local authority level data on the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings and hours worked for employees in all industries and occupations.</p> <p>http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/ashe/annual-survey-of-hours-and-earnings/2012-revised-results/index.html</p>

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Skills match /mismatch</p>	<p>The most reliable source of data on the total number of vacancies in the economy is the ONS Vacancy Survey. This provides monthly data on the total number of vacancies by industry and size of establishment. Reports and data (in spreadsheet format) from the survey are available on the ONS website at: http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Vacancies. Vacancy data is included in the 'Claimant Count and Vacancies' dataset within the monthly Labour Market Statistics report but this only provides national data: http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/lms/labour-market-statistics/september-2013/dataset--claimant-count-and-vacancies.html Since the Universal Jobmatch service was introduced, the previous monthly Jobcentre Plus count of notified, filled and unfilled vacancies (available via Nomis) has been replaced by the 'reports' section of the Universal Jobmatch website: (https://jobsearch.direct.gov.uk/Reports/Reports.aspx). These reports are in graphical format, do not use standard industrial and occupational classifications and present no geographical detail. It is possible to view all jobs of a given type in an area as defined by DWP/Monster at any one time. These jobs are not only those notified to the Universal Jobmatch system, but are also 'scraped' from other job advertising websites, so may contain duplicates.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Skills match /mismatch</p>	<p>Unemployment data - Though it is an imperfect indicator, the claimant count is the most regularly available measure of local economic conditions and the time-series of data available for analysis is longer than for most economic statistics. At the local scale, Nomis provides monthly data from June 1978 onwards (http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/818.aspx), with a greater range of breakdowns from July 1982 when the computerised JUVOS system was introduced and from 2005 onwards. Data has been available for electoral wards from 1982 onwards. The coverage of the claimant count has changed over time and is different from the ILO measure of unemployment available from the APS.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Skills match /mismatch</p>	<p>Benefit data - Quarterly data on different benefits is produced for local authority districts and smaller areas by the Department for Work and Pensions (https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/dwp-statistics-tabulation-tool).</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Skills match /mismatch</p>	<p>The UKCES Employer Skills Survey (ESS) also provides data on skills mismatch measures including skill deficiencies (skill shortage vacancies and skills gaps), vacancies and under use of skills (see links above).</p>

Analytical tools

The ONS has created a number of user-friendly tools to undertake analyses relevant to local labour markets. The *Change over Time Analysis (COTA)* tools analyse benefit and claimant count data for small geographical areas, in a very flexible manner. See: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/regional-trends/area-based-analysis/change-over-time-analysis--cota--viewer-update---april-2013/index.html>.

ONS has also produced a website providing *Local Enterprise Partnership profiles*, in the form of an interactive graphical display:

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/HTMLDocs/LEP/LEPD/atlas.html>.

LEPs can be profiled and also compared on a range of indicators such as population, employment, unemployment, qualifications, earnings, benefit claimants and businesses. Individual LEP are profiles can be created using the NOMIS summary statistics tool here:

<http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/lep/contents.aspx>

There is an interactive map of the unemployment claimant count by local authority district at: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/interactive/theme-pages/index.html>.

Other repositories of local data, information and intelligence

There are a wide range of statistical outputs from the **ONS** which are of relevance to labour market information and intelligence. The links below are to introductory pages which provide further links to background information, documentation and statistical releases.

Regular (quarterly) regional labour market statistics and reports	http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/subnational-labour/regional-labour-market-statistics/index.html
2011 Census of Population	http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html
Geographical reference and boundary data	http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/products/census/index.html
Population estimates	http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/pop-estimate/population-estimates-for-uk--england-and-wales--scotland-and-northern-ireland/index.html

Population projections	http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Sub-national+Population+Projections
Migration Statistics Quarterly Report	http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/index.html
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings	http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/ashe/annual-survey-of-hours-and-earnings/index.html
Regional and sub-regional Gross Value Added	http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Regional+GVA#tab-sum-pub
Sub-national productivity	http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/regional-trends/regional-economic-analysis/sub-regional-productivity--april-2013/index.html
UK Business: Activity, Size and Location	http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/bus-register/uk-business/index.html
Business Demography	http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/bus-register/business-demography/index.html

The schedule of most recent ONS data releases can be found at:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/release-calendar/index.html>.

The guidance and methodology page (<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/index.html>) also provides a useful point of reference for access to reference material and advice on data analysis.

Nomis (<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>) is a key repository of local labour market data in the UK. It receives a wide range of ONS data on the labour market, derived from both administrative systems and official surveys. The main data sources are:

- claimant count;
- local employment data from the Business Register and Employment Survey and its predecessors;
- the Census of Population (for England and Wales);
- Annual Population Estimates;
- Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings;

- DWP data sets (including time series of DWP small area benefit data);

Data are provided for administrative and statistical geographies, which take account of boundary changes and are thus consistent over time.

Nomis also provides convenient profiles of the labour market at a range of geographical scales, bringing a range of data sets together and making use of maps and other graphical displays. Data is provided for administrative and statistical geographies, which take account of boundary changes and are thus consistent over time.

Data.gov.uk is the home of the UK government's effort to make much more of its data 'open' and available for secondary analysis. Many data sets can be accessed via this webpage, which primarily contains links to government and other data repositories. However, some links are broken.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) - maintains access to a number of useful data sets and analytical reports relevant to (local) labour market analysis:

English Business Survey (note this ceased to be collected on 30 th April 2014)	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-business-survey
Higher Education statistics	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/official-statistics-releases
Private sector employment series	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/private-sector-employment-indicator
Trade union statistics	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/trade-union-statistics

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) - Links to the range of statistical products from the DWP can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?keywords=&publication_filter_option=statistics&topics%5B%5D=all&departments%5B%5D=department-for-work-pensions&official_document_status=all&world_locations%5B%5D=all&from_date=&to_date=&commit=Refresh+results

The *tabulation tool* (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dwp-statistics-tabulation-tool>) provides access to time-series of flow data for a range of benefits and employment programmes. The analysis of working age benefits presents the number of people on incapacity benefit and income support along with the number of people claiming Job Seekers' Allowance. This data also appears on <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/> which also permits more convenient access to time-series. (The change to Universal Credit will influence the information made available).

Stat-xplore (<https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>) is a new facility created by the DWP for creating bespoke tables from DWP statistics. In October 2013, it provided information on Housing Benefit and National Insurance number (NINo) allocations to non-UK nationals (so providing information on migration at local level), but there are plans to bring in other data sets. Standard tables can be produced without registration, but registered users can customise tabular outputs.

Neighbourhood Statistics (<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/>) is the repository for all information generated by the ONS and other government departments for small areas in England. There is some duplication with the Data.gov.uk website, but the latter also provides access to metadata.

The Data Service is a repository of Further Education (in England) data sets on participation and achievements in different types of post-16 education, including further education, workplace and community education, apprenticeships and Skills for Life. Data on levels of educational qualifications and achievement for vocational qualifications are also available. Some of the data sets provide time-series information for local authority districts. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-further-education-and-skills>)

For information on research on **apprenticeships** see:

<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/about-us/research.aspx>.

Department for Education (DfE) has a Web page with data on examination attainment and other educational statistics for all local education authorities in England (http://www.education.gov.uk/inyourarea/results/nat_921_leas_3.shtml). Data for local authority districts and parliamentary constituencies is also presented where relevant. The main research and statistics web page provides links to statistical reports derived from the department's statutory returns and surveys

(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications?departments%5B%5D=department-for-education&publication_filter_option=statistics).

Some data relevant to **neighbourhood regeneration** in England is at <http://www.data4nr.net/introduction/>.

Regional observatories – Formerly there was an active network of Regional Observatories in England. Some of these Regional Observatories still function. Examples of RDA and observatory archives include:

Name	Web address	Description
North East Research and Information Partnership	http://www.nerip.com/home.aspx	This is an archive site which provides links to the reports produced by the various observatories which existed in the region until 2011. Some of this information is now on the National Archives website, but other links no longer function.
East Midlands Development Agency Knowledge Bank	http://irep.ntu.ac.uk/R/MDTV/DLYRG6J8FEPB5USSPF4T56JR5CAGYCPUMYAH1X93AIML4-01757?func=collections&collection_id=1301	The reports and data produced by EMDA have been preserved by Nottingham Trent University Business School.
South East Development Agency	http://www.secouncils.gov.uk/facts-figures/seeda-economic-archive/	This is an archive of the content of the SEEDA website when closed in 2012. Includes labour market updates and commissioned reports.

Examples of active Observatories in England and other actively updated regional (and local) data resources relevant to the labour market include:

Name	Web address	Description
West Midlands Regional Observatory	http://www.marketingbirmingham.com/regional_observatory/latest-research/	Taken over by Marketing Birmingham, it now presents itself as a consultancy. The website contains reports on inward investment and tourism.
The Skills and Learning Intelligence Module	http://www.swslim.org.uk/index.asp	Provides data on the South West labour market and also skills and learning information. It includes links to county-level data on a wide range of labour market indicators and reports on labour markets in the South West.
The London Datastore	http://data.london.gov.uk/	This site provides access to a wide range of data sets and reports created by the Greater London Authority. It includes some material created by the London Skills and Employment Observatory (http://data.london.gov.uk/lseo).
CESI Local Labour Force Mapping Tool	http://stats.cesi.org.uk/statistics/Example4EconActivity/atlas2.html	Instantatlas site presenting a number of labour market indicators at borough level for London.

In England Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs) have superseded the RDAs. LEP websites can be accessed via the LEP network website at:

<http://www.lepnetwork.net/leps/>

Wales – repositories include:

Name	Web address	Description
Wales Government Statistics	http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/?lang=en	Research reports on labour market topics for Wales. These include analysis and commentary on ONS statistics.
Statswales	https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue	Presents ONS and Wales government statistics for Wales, unitary authorities, economic regions and small areas. There is a table-based inquiry system. Registered users gain greater flexibility in manipulating data sets.
Learning and Skills Observatory Wales	http://www.learningobservatory.com/	Website contains a range of commentary and news items about the labour market in Wales and analysis of JSA data in 'skills tables' and the Work Programme. It includes the facility to search for research and reports on Wales and elsewhere. A learning and labour market intelligence report is available.
Regional Learning & Skills Observatory for South West Wales	http://rlp.infobasecymru.net/IAS/home	Contains data and reports for localities and industry sectors in South-West Wales.

Wales Rural Observatory	http://www.walesruralobservatory.org.uk/	Conducts research on rural issues in Wales. Website provides access to statistical profiles and maps for a number of indicators derived from official statistics and survey data. There are reports on the rural household and business surveys and research on particular topics, such as the impact of economic migrants.
Public Health Wales Observatory	http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/922/home	Statistics on economic deprivation, equalities and the population.

Scotland – The Scottish LMI Framework describes the sources of labour market information in Scotland and its providers and discusses the weaknesses of LMI provision <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Economy/labour-market/LMI>. Repositories include:

Name	Web address	Description
Scottish Government Labour Market Statistics	http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Labour-Market	A portal providing links to research and statistics on the labour market at both Scotland and local scales.
Skills Development Scotland	http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/resources/labour-market-intelligence/lmi-across-scotland/	Labour market intelligence reports for Scotland and individual Council Areas.
Skills Development Scotland 'Research Online'	http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/resources/labour-market-intelligence/research-online/	This is a searchable database of reports on labour market and skills issues. It is not confined to Scotland. However, it provides access to reports for local authority districts only in Scotland.

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics	http://www.sns.gov.uk/	Downloadable statistics across a range of domains for small areas and local authority districts. Provides both simple profiles and advanced data extraction.
Scottish Enterprise	http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/about-us/resources.aspx	Research on the Scottish economy and evaluations of the impact of projects.
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	http://www.hie.co.uk/regional-information/	Profiles of areas within the Highlands and Islands and economic research reports.
The Scottish Public Health Observatory	http://www.scotpho.org.uk/	Data on the population and socio-economic health differentials

Northern Ireland – repositories include:

Name	Web address	Description
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency	http://www.nisra.gov.uk/	Provides access to a range of regularly collected statistics on the population, employment, wages and unemployment. 2011 Census data for small areas is available from: http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx
Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information System	http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Theme.aspx	Provides access to small area data sets across a range of themes, including population, education and the labour market.

Department for Employment and Learning Northern Ireland, Statistics and Research	http://www.delni.gov.uk/index/statsandresearch.htm	Provides access to statistics on unemployment, vacancies and employment for geographical areas within Northern Ireland.
Northern Ireland Department of Education	http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/facts-and-figures-new.htm	Statistics on the school population and educational attainment, for geographical areas within Northern Ireland.
Northern Ireland Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	http://www.detini.gov.uk/index/homepage-stats-surveys.htm	Statistical data derived from the Annual Business Inquiry, Labour Force Survey and IDBR.
All Ireland Research Observatory	http://airo.ie/	Resources for mapping socio-economic indicators for the entire island of Ireland.
Northern Ireland public health	http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-public-health.htm	Statistics on health workforce and socio-economic health differentials.

Local Observatories – In some, but not all, areas there are local observatories. The list below is based on the surviving observatories from the links on the Data for Neighbourhood Renewal website. Note that as circumstances change, so local observatories may be established or discontinued. Likewise the information and intelligence available from them changes over time.

Name	Web address	Description
North East		
County Durham Observatory	http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=367	Contains a range of statistical information, data from the Census, Instantatlas reports and links to the monthly economic update produced by the County Durham Economic Partnership: http://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/Pages/EcP-CountyDurhamEconomicUpdate.aspx
Darlington Local Information System	http://lis.darlington.gov.uk/	Economic, population, health, crime and education data is presented for Darlington using Instantatlas. There are also links to reports.
North West		
Cumbria Intelligence Observatory	http://www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/	Provides access to economic and labour market reports, and a range of data sets on demography, housing, crime, education via Instantatlas. Data is presented for small areas within Cumbria. Data from a range of household surveys is also available.
Cheshire and Warrington Research and Intelligence Collaborative	http://www.candwleadersboard.org.uk/what-we-do/research-and-intelligence	Basic reports and information on the population and economy are freely available. Links to a range of partner sites are also listed.

Your Lancashire – Social and economic intelligence	http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/web/?siteid=6232&pageid=36384&e=e	Includes access to economic and social statistics and analytical reports
OldhamInfo	http://www.oldhaminfo.org/	Provides access to reports and statistics. Registration is required.
Stats and Maps for Rochdale	http://www.statsandmaps.org.uk/	Provides access to standard statistics and some research reports for small areas in Rochdale
<i>Yorkshire and the Humber</i>		
West Yorkshire Observatory	http://www.westyorkshireobservatory.org/	Provides access to 'reports' on the economy which bring together a range of statistical indicators. Has subsidiary websites for each local authority district in West Yorkshire.
STREAM – North Yorkshire and York LIS	http://www.streamlis.org.uk/	Requires registration to access statistics and reports
East Riding Data Observatory	http://dataobs.eastriding.gov.uk/	Provides access to data, maps and links to local observatories and Local economic Assessment
North Lincolnshire Data Observatory	http://nlido.northlincs.gov.uk/IAS_Live/home	Provides economic statistics, analysis of labour market data and Local Economic Assessment

East Midlands		
Derbyshire Observatory	http://observatory.derbyshire.gov.uk/	A range of statistics is presented, with some reports. Instantatlas is used to present local data. It includes ward-level business demography indicators.
Leicestershire Statistics and Research Online	http://www.lsr-online.org/	Provides statistics, graphics and monthly unemployment reports.
Lincolnshire Research Observatory	http://www.research-lincs.org.uk/Home.aspx	Comprehensive repository of data on Lincolnshire and of research reports for the country and districts. Includes Local Economic Assessment and background data. Registration necessary.
Northamptonshire Analysis	http://www.northamptonshireanalysis.co.uk/	This has replaced the original observatory and includes Economic and Labour Market Assessment data sets and economic reports produced in conjunction with a range of partner sites.
West Midlands		
Birmingham City Council Economic Research and Analysis	http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/birminghameconomy	Contains links to economic briefings and economic strategy documents

Black Country Consortium Economic Intelligence Unit	http://www.the-blackcountry.com/intelligence	Provides downloadable datasets, an interactive map and reports on the local and regional economy. Registration is required to access reports.
Coventry Partnership Facts About Coventry	http://www.facts-about-coventry.com/	Economic statistics and Local Economic Assessment
Shropshire Facts and Figures	http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/facts-and-figures/employment-and-economy/	Provides statistical data on the labour market plus reports from employer surveys
Staffordshire Observatory	http://www.staffordshireobservatory.org.uk/homepage.aspx	Includes links to Economic Review, Local Economic Assessment and data on LEP. Covers Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire.
Warwickshire Observatory	http://www.warwickshireobservatory.org/	Annual Quality of Life report includes a range of local economic statistics. There are links to economic reports (some quite old) and Local Economic Assessment.
Wolverhampton in Profile	http://www.wolverhamptoninprofile.org.uk/explorer/resources/	Document library provides links to statistics and reports on the economy.
<i>East of England</i>		
Cambridgeshire Insight	http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/	A shared research knowledge base containing information on a range of economic indicators and population statistics.

Luton Borough Council	http://www.luton.gov.uk/Business/Pages/default.aspx	Contains information on business surveys, apprenticeships and regeneration, but no economic statistical information.
Norfolk Insight	http://www.norfolkinsight.org.uk/	Provides profiles and maps of readily available statistical indicators. Additional facilities are available to registered users.
Suffolk Observatory	http://www.suffolkobservatory.info/	Provides a range of statistical indicators and reports on the local economy and population. The “advanced reporting system” requires registration.
London		
Hackney Facts and Figures	http://www.hackney.gov.uk/statistics-evidence-plans-and-strategies.htm#.UJLRbG2GefW	Regularly updated local reports, and information on development and other policy areas, with links to other statistical resources.
Enfield Data Hub	http://www.enfield.gov.uk/info/1000000326/enfield_data_hub	Includes the Local Economic Assessment and a number of other research reports, but only links to sources of statistical information.
Havering Data Intelligence Hub	http://www.haveringdata.net/	Provides a range of economic statistics and the facility to compare London Boroughs
The Islington Evidence Hub	http://www.islington.gov.uk/islington/maps-statistics/Pages/the-islington-evidence-hub.aspx	Provides a labour market briefing, Local Economic Assessment and local topic reports.

Newham Info	http://www.newham.info/	Includes statistical information, reports and data from the Newham Longitudinal Study, mapping and
South East		
Brighton & Hove Local Information Service	http://www.bhlis.org/	Contains profiles on a range of topics and the Employment and Skills Plan and Economic Strategy for the district. Brighton & Hove is compared with neighbouring and similar districts.
East Sussex in Figures	http://www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk/webview/welcome.html	Provides access to a wide range of labour market data, business and resident surveys
Hantsweb	http://www3.hants.gov.uk/factsandfigures.htm	Employment and labour market reports, data on large employers and updated Local Economic Assessment information for Hampshire.
Milton Keynes Intelligence Observatory	http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk/	Provides links to ONS statistics, local profiles and mapping facilities.
Oxfordshire Economic Observatory	http://oeo.geog.ox.ac.uk/	Research reports on various topics relevant to local economic development.
Oxfordshire Insight	http://insight.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/	Links to ONS labour market data.

Surrey-i	http://www.surreyi.gov.uk/	Reports derived from ONS labour market data sets.
South West		
Bournemouth Statistics	http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/PeopleLiving/BournemouthStatistics/BournemouthStatistics.aspx	Includes labour market statistics and data on business, retailing and land development.
Bristol City Council	http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/business-bristol/economic-information-and-analysis	Includes economic briefings and labour market statistics. See also Bristol Research Network: http://bristolresearchnetwork.wordpress.com/ for the State of the City Statistical update, a report on the population of the city and other resources.
Cornwall County Council Data and Research	http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=2035	Statistics for Cornwall plus reports on the economy of Cornwall.
Devon Facts, Figures and Statistics	http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/community/the_county/facts_figures_and_statistics/facts_and_figures.htm	Provides labour market and GVA statistics.
Dorset for you	http://www.dorsetforyou.com/statistics/economy	Labour market statistics, LEP economic dashboard tool, economic bulletin and data on land development.
Inform Gloucestershire Research and Intelligence	http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/index.cfm?articleid=98948	Reports and statistics on Gloucestershire's economy, including Local Economic assessment and sector studies.

Somerset Intelligence	http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/economy-and-jobs.html	Includes a 'dashboard' with key statistical labour market indicators, a Local Economic assessment and updates, economic factsheet and analysis of productivity in the county and LEP.
Wiltshire Intelligence Network	http://www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk/	Strategic Economic assessment includes a series of factsheets analysing aspects of the economy and labour market. Includes employment and skills analysis and ongoing analysis of the impact of recession.
WALES		
Anglesey Infobase	http://anglesey.infobasecymru.net/IAS/	Statistics on the local economy and labour market. Report on key economic outcomes with indicators compared with target.
Flintshire in Partnership	http://flintshire.infobasecymru.net/IAS/eng	Statistics on the local economy and labour market. Report on effects of the recession.
Infobase Cymru	http://www.infobasecymru.net/IAS/	Reports on a range of themes for each unitary authority in Wales.
SCOTLAND		
KnowFife	http://knowfife.fife.gov.uk/IAS/	Includes a monthly economic update and indicators of education and skills, with mapping of labour market indicators.

Annex 2: Quality standards

Quality/professional standards for research set out by recognised bodies in the UK include:

- **The UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice:**
<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>
- **The MRS Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidelines:**
<http://www.mrs.org.uk/standards/guidelines.htm>
- **The Social Research Association Ethical Guidelines:**
<http://the-sra.org.uk/research-ethics/ethics-guidelines/>

Professional standards set down by recognised international bodies and organisations, include:

- **The European Statistics Code of Practice (Eurostat):**
http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/quality/code_of_practice
- **The ICC/ESOMAR International Code on Social and Market Research:**
<http://www.esomar.org/publications-store/codes-guidelines.php>
- **The RESPECT Code of Practice for Socio-economic Research:**
http://www.respectproject.org/code/respect_code.pdf
- **The OECD Quality Framework:**
<http://www.oecd.org/std/qualityframeworkforoecdstatisticalactivities.htm>

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All outputs from the UK Commission can be accessed online at www.gov.uk/ukces

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The UK Commission for Employment and Skills is a social partnership, led by Commissioners from large and small employers, trade unions and the voluntary sector. Our mission is to raise skill levels to help drive enterprise, create more and better jobs and economic growth.

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