**Researching Labor Market Information**

Topic: *Researching Labor Market Information*

**Prerequisite:** Student exploration of skills, interests, and potential careers of interest

**Audience:** Students

**Activity Goal**

Deepen students’ understanding of labor market projections for careers of interest.

**Background Knowledge for the Presenter**

* It will be helpful to go through the various Labor Market resources and Xello resources provide as part of the worksheet. Depending on your students’ age and previous career exploration, you may choose to limit choices they have around which Labor Market resources to explore.
* As students complete their Labor Market exploration, you may need to assist them in picking the best Labor Market resource for their needs, selecting careers of interest, or conducting Xello research.

**Materials Needed**

* [Labor Market One-Pager](https://dpi.wi.gov/cte/labor-market-information/talking-students-about-lmi)
* Handout Labor Market Research Worksheet (attached below)
* [Wisconsin K-12 Labor Market Guide](https://dpi.wi.gov/cte/lmi-guide)
* [Industry Projection Reports by Career Cluster](https://dpi.wi.gov/cte/labor-market-information/industry-projection-reports-career-cluster)
* [O’Net](https://www.onetonline.org/)

**Time Needed:** 45 minutes to 90 minutes

**Procedures**

1. Begin the activity asking the question, “What is labor market information? Why is it important when thinking about what types of careers you might want do to in your future?”
2. Review the Labor Market One-Pager with the class. Connect the One-Pager with the ideas the students shared in the opening.
3. Share the outcome for the lesson, which is to deepen their understanding of labor market projections for careers that are of interest to them. They will reach this outcome by conducting labor market research on careers of interest.
4. Preview the Labor Market Research Worksheet (copied below). As you preview the worksheet, perhaps go through each step of the process as students complete each of the three steps.
   1. Use an examples to model the research for students.
   2. Pay close attention to going through each of the LMI resource options to help students think through which resource they will use to conduct their research.
   3. Also point out which parts of the worksheet students will use Xello for and which students will use the LMI resources for.
   4. Show students how to research careers in Xello using the link included in the worksheet.
5. After students have completed Step 3, have them share out their reflections in small or large groups.

**Labor Market Information: Student Research**

**Step 1:**

Explore one or two of the following resources. Write down any questions or careers you might want to learn more about that.

* [Wisconsin K-12 Labor Market Guide](https://dpi.wi.gov/cte/lmi-guide): This guide provides a visually appealing summary of Wisconsin labor market trends across the 16 career clusters. This may be a good resource to use if the student wants to look at a more visually appealing resource that highlights the most important trends, but doesn’t feature each and every occupation.
* [Industry Projection Reports by Career Cluster](https://dpi.wi.gov/cte/labor-market-information/industry-projection-reports-career-cluster): Industry Projection Reports highlight key labor market information for each career cluster, but are much more comprehensive and detailed than the Wisconsin K-12 Labor Market Guide. This may be a good resource to use if you already know occupations of interest you want to look up.
* [O’Net](https://www.onetonline.org/): provides Labor Market information, but at a national level. This may be a good resource to use if you are sure you don’t want to stay in Wisconsin after high school.

Questions: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Careers I want to learn more about: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Step 2:**

Fill out at least four careers that are of interest to you. They may be interesting to you because you just identified them as a career you wanted to learn more about or they may be interesting to you because of previous career exploration you have done. Then use Xello and Industry Projection Reports to fill in more information about what the career does, why it’s interesting to you, Projected Total Annual Job Openings, and Annual Median Wage.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Career** | **What does this career do?** | **Why is it interesting to me?** | **Projected Total Annual Job Openings** | **Annual Median Wage** |
| From [Xello](https://xello.mcoutput.com/117055/Student%20Experience%20Walkthrough%20-%20Explore%20Options%20and%20Goals%20%26%20Plans%20-%20USA.pdf) | From Wisconsin K-12 Labor Market Guide, Industry Projection Reports by Career Cluster, or   O’Net | |
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**Step 3:**

Write down your reflections below.

1) What did you learn about careers that you didn’t know before through doing this activity?

2) Which of the careers you researched seem to have the most favorable labor market projections? Why?

 3) Did this research influence your potential career goals in any way? Why or why not?

4) Are you considering pursuing a career that doesn't have favorable labor market information? If so, what can you do to make sure you stand out in a competitive job market?

**Step 4:**

* After completing your research, go back into [Xello](https://xello.mcoutput.com/117055/Student%20Experience%20Walkthrough%20-%20Explore%20Options%20and%20Goals%20%26%20Plans%20-%20USA.pdf) to save new careers of interest