

## From the Webmaster... *Venus De Hoyos*

### The Information Economy...how are we responding to it?

#### Part I of TRACER Series

Technology has changed more than just the economy, it has changed the way people do business, the customers' expectations, and has touched practically every aspect of our lives. The public and private sector have adapted by utilizing innovations to better serve their customers since we have come to expect to be able to do many of our errands with a couple of clicks on a computer mouse. Banks, bookstores, schools and government agencies have responded to this increased reliability on electronic dissemination with a variety of products ranging from simple websites to elaborate financial systems.

The Texas Workforce Commission and its departments continuously strive to remain on the cutting edge to help its customers make more informed business decisions, find their dream careers, and conduct better research to set policies in place to increase the wealth of every community. An example of these efforts by the Labor Market Information Department is **TRACER** - the product of a joint effort by a consortium of 17 states to develop a system that encompasses all of the services that Texas LMI can provide.



### **TRACER = Information @ your fingertips** **What does it mean?**

**T - Texas.** State located in the southwestern United States

**R - Rapid.** Quick, fast, speedy, swift, immediate

**A - Access.** Gate, entry... *to*

**C - Career.** Profession, occupation, livelihood... *and*

**E - Economic.** Wealth, financial, monetary

**R - Resources.** Supply, source, reserve

TRACER is the gateway to the information needed to make informed business, policy and career decisions that could increase the wealth of business, improve the careers of workers, and trickle down to the ultimate effect of overall well being for your community.

TRACER is the only dynamic Labor Market Information delivery system backed up by the combined experience of 65 economists. In LMI, we are working to get you the latest, most accurate data about the Texas Labor Market on your schedule and in the format in which you need it.

**TRACER's** ability to serve employers, workforce partners, job seekers and economic researchers is unprecedented. You can find all the relevant resources rolled into one website which combines the capability to: personalize your homepage, research industries of interest to you, find occupations/jobs that match your skills, retrieve economic information available for your area, and find information on training programs that can enhance your career. **TRACER** can help you make informed business, career, and policy decisions 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

There's more... TRACER is **FREE** of charge. Plus, you can call Texas LMI staff if you need assistance or have any questions about the data.

*If you would like more information, please contact Texas LMI at 1-866-938-4444 (toll free) or 512-491-4922 or send an e-mail to [lmi@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:lmi@twc.state.tx.us).*

In upcoming issues, we will explore the functionality of TRACER in detail. Stay tuned and send us your comments by visiting [www.tracer2.com](http://www.tracer2.com).

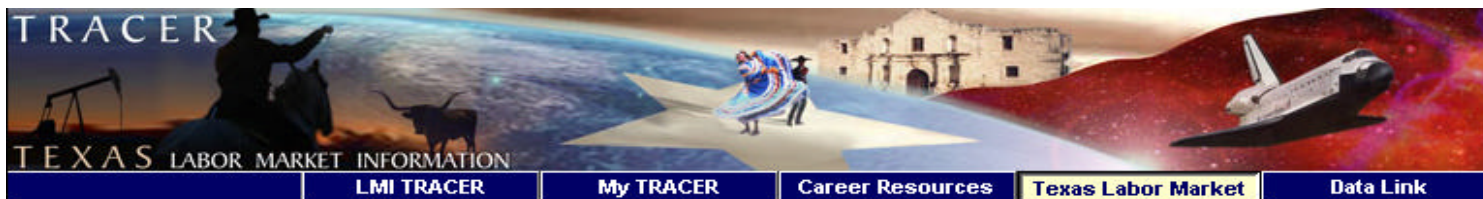
### HOW WE CAN SERVE YOU...

- **Employers** – Research what industries are growing in your area.
- **Job Seekers** – Find your dream career.
- **Workforce Partners** – Help all of your customers in one place.
- **Researchers** – Find the data you need, in the format you need it in.



### FIND ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS...

- What are the wages paid in your local area for specific occupations?
- How many companies exist in my industry?
- How many people comprise the Labor Force in my city, county, metropolitan area or the state?
- Where can I find a listing of the employers in my area?
- What are the fastest-growing or highest-paying occupations in my area and what training is required for entry into those occupations?



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## A Glimpse into the Texas Labor Market, Part II of TRACER Series

On May 21, 2003, the new TRACER website saw the light of day. Since that day, LMI staff has been busy teaching our customers about the wealth of resources available on our website and how and where to find them.

TRACER is composed of four main modules. These modules can be accessed by clicking on the tabs at the top of the page, just below the TRACER banner. Each module is adapted to provide you with different services. The modules are: "My TRACER", "Career Resources", "Texas Labor Market", and "Data Link".

- **My TRACER** – Allows you to create your own LMI home page and serves as a repository for your customized queries and searches. In other words, you can create your own flavor of Labor Market Information and access it time and time again, always updated with the most current data.
- **Career Resources** – Oriented to help customers make informed career choices by finding the right occupations for their particular set of skills. It also provides a powerful job search interface with America's Job Bank.
- **Texas Labor Market** – Targeted to customers performing directed research. A customer can research geographical areas, occupations, employers and training providers. Customers can look up several areas and occupations at one time and retrieve a medley of economic information, facilitating side-by-side analysis.
- **Data Link** – Geared toward the seasoned data user who knows exactly what LMI information they need. It provides an easy-to-access departure point for all the data produced and disseminated by the LMI Department.

The modules in TRACER are interconnected and operate in a seamless fashion. Once you start exploring, you will be able to utilize the full power of the website by jumping from one module to the next as it becomes relevant in your search. Valuable TRACER features include customizable data queries and the ability to save and retrieve updated information with one click of the mouse. TRACER also contains many webpages with specialized analysis focusing on areas such as employment projections and wage information produced by our in-house staff of economists.

## Texas Labor Market Module

### ☒ Explore Local Area

Local Area Profile  
Compare Areas

### Local Area Profiles

You can view data for up to three counties or two counties and the state. The standard profile includes unemployment rates, employment estimates, wages by occupations and industries, employment projections, building permits, population, per-capita income and training providers. If you only want specific items, you can customize the report by performing an advanced search, which will enable you to select the criteria for the report.

### ☒ Training Information

Find Training Providers  
Find Training Programs

### Training Information

By selecting your area of interest and by clicking on further search options, you can search for training providers and programs alphabetically, by degrees

offered, by geographical areas or by the type of program.

### ☒ Explore Occupations

Occupation Explorer  
Compare Occupations

### Occupation Explorer

If you are interested in researching occupations, the Explorer will allow you to enter a keyword for an occupation and retrieve wages, short and long-term employment projections and brief job descriptions. The Explorer provides contact information for training providers in a selected area. The customer can also view a video clip with a live representation of a person employed in that

### Find Employers

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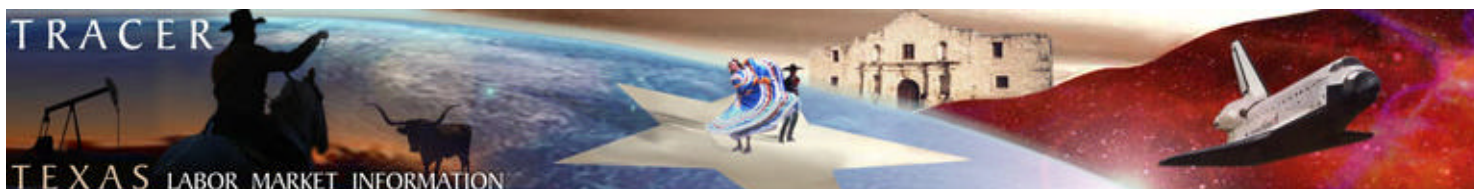
You can search for employers by industry, alphabetically, or by typing in a keyword for the business name. The information displayed includes contact information, the number of employees in the firm, and a link to view a map showing the physical location.

The Texas Labor Market Module is a powerful tool for anyone performing analysis on a variety of labor market issues. It provides you with download features, videos, one-click access to historical data, the powerful benefit of side-by-side comparisons of areas and data—and this is just the beginning. We invite you to come surf our site. If you have any questions about TRACER, you can contact us toll free, Monday through Friday 8am-5pm at 1-866-938-4444. Also, you can email us at [lmi@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:lmi@twc.state.tx.us).

In upcoming newsletters, we will explore the remaining three modules and their ability to make your labor market research experience a fruitful and valuable one.

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The above article is reprinted here from the June 2003 issue of the Texas Labor Market Review newsletter published monthly by the Labor Market Information Department of the Texas Workforce Commission. For comments or questions regarding this article, please contact the LMI Department at (512) 491-4922 or e-mail at [lmi@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:lmi@twc.state.tx.us).



## From the Webmaster... *Venus De Hoyos*

### Personalizing your LMI page and finding Career Information

#### Part III of TRACER Series

We have seen that TRACER allows us to view Local Area Profiles, to perform occupational research, and to find employers and training information. This month, we will explore two more modules in TRACER: personalizing an LMI page and finding career information.



You will be able to view your personalized page under the “My TRACER” tab. This module will allow you to create the flavor of LMI that best serves you or your organization.

[New User? Sign Up.](#)

Username:

Password:

[Forgot Password?](#)

The first thing you need to do to utilize “My TRACER” is to create a user profile. The information gathered is not shared with anyone and is utilized solely to improve the quality of our services. Once you have set a username and password, you will be able to start saving data queries, job searches, occupational research, etc.



Once logged in, you can choose the categories you want to view in your homepage, such as Wages, Employment, Industry, etc. The page will then be populated with the most recent articles and publications related to those categories.



As the illustration on the left shows, you can choose to view three categories under which you can customize your individual searches and save them. For example, you might be interested in finding job openings for Elementary Teachers in the zip code 78705. Every time you click on the link, the most updated job postings will be retrieved.

TRACER gives you the ability to navigate the database by selecting parameters to customize a search to your geographical area or time frame and save it to your LMI page. For example, you might use the following criteria: Unemployment Rates in Amarillo for 1995-2003. The data retrieved will always be the most up-to-date available for every year selected.

Also, if you find an article or publication of interest to you, you can save it so that even if it is moved around in the site to make room for more recent publications, you will still have access to it.



When you need to find information in order to make informed career decisions, the “Career Resources” module is there to help you. Also, once those important choices have been made, this module provides a powerful search tool which is linked to America’s Job Bank (AJB) and contains the most up-to-date job postings.

Tour Career Center
Occupations by Skills
Occupations by Assessment Codes
Occupations Matching Current

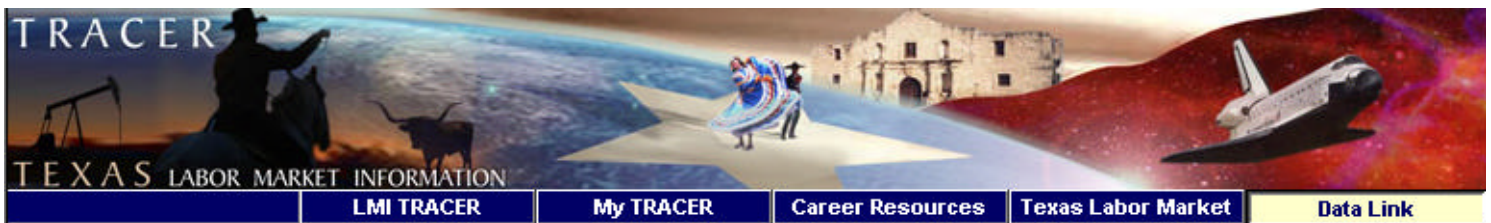
This section is particularly useful to career counselors and students. However, any person analyzing occupations similar to his/her own as defined by skills, training or experience required can benefit from TRACER's "**Career Resources.**"

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Job Seekers
Quick Search
Keyword Search
Title Search

Job Seekers get an instant connection to millions of job postings in America's Job Bank and can save the search in their personal homepage.

We will continue to explore TRACER in upcoming months. If you have comments or feedback, you can always contact me at [venus.dehoyos@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:venus.dehoyos@twc.state.tx.us) or contact an economist in our dissemination unit at [lmi@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:lmi@twc.state.tx.us).





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### TRACER, your Link to LMI Data

#### Part IV of TRACER Series

#### ☒ Select Data Type

- All Data Types
- Unemployment (LAUS)
- Employment Estimates (CES)
- Covered Employment (ES202)
- Wages by Profession
- Projections - Occupation
- Projections - Industry
- Consumer Price Index
- Income
- Staffing Patterns
- Population
- Mass Layoff Stats

In this issue, we will explore the remaining section of TRACER located on the **Data Link** tab. **Data Link** gives you easy access to all the data contained in our database. You can easily identify the types of information available, the areas for which it is produced, and the items that can be retrieved for each set. Data Link is easy to access by clicking on the **"Data Link"** tab and then clicking on the left navigation bar on the arrow called **"Select Data Type"**. This will open a menu listing all the data types available on the site. Following is a description of the major data sets produced and maintained by the LMI department as well as the data items that can be retrieved from each. All of this data can be downloaded to Excel and customized for your particular area and needs, then saved to your personal LMI page.

The geographical areas are denoted as follows: United States (US), Statewide (S), Workforce Development Board Areas - 28 (WDA), Metropolitan Statistical Areas - 27 (MSA), County - 254 (Co), City - 341 (C).

#### Unemployment Rates (LAUS)

*Geographical Areas: US, S, WDA, MSA, Co, C.*

*Period Available: 1970-current (US/S); 1990-current (substate)*

Contains unemployment rates and monthly Civilian Labor Force (CLF) estimates. The CLF includes people who are currently employed and those unemployed but actively seeking employment. Seasonally adjusted data are available at the U.S. and statewide level.

#### Current Employment Statistics (CES)

*Geographical Areas: S, MSA.*

*Period Available: 1990-current (monthly)*

Also known as Non-Agricultural employment, CES data is the only measure of monthly employment levels by industry. Data produced at the state level is also available "seasonally adjusted", where fluctuations due to repeated yearly patterns are excluded.

#### Covered Employment and Wages (ES-202)

*Geographical Areas: S, WDA, MSA, Co.*

*Period Available: 1998-current (quarterly)*

Covered Employment and Wages (CE&W), or ES202 data, gives monthly employment and quarterly wage data. The information is collected from all the Texas employers who pay unemployment insurance (UI) tax and is released on a quarterly basis. Some questions that can be answered with it are: What is the average weekly wage for the "electronic wholesale" industry and how does it compare with the "commercial banking" industry? How many jobs existed in the Dallas MSA in August 2000, or in Williamson County in 4th Quarter 2002?

#### Wages by Occupations (OES)

*Geographical Areas: S, WDA, MSA.*

*Period Available: Updated quarterly*

Contains wage information for over 800 occupations. The data is obtained by conducting surveys of over 25,000 Texas employers regarding the wages they pay by occupation and the number of people they employ. This data is updated four times each year.

#### Future Job Growth (Projections-Ind. & Occ.)

*Geographical Areas: S, WDA.*

*Period Available: Long Term 2000-2010; Short Term 2001-2003*

Provides base-year annual average employment estimates for over 700 occupations projected over a ten-year and a three-year period. Included are actual and percent employment changes and annual average job openings due to both industry growth and replacement needs.

#### Consumer Price Index (CPI)

*Geographical Areas: US, S, Dallas-Ft. Worth PMSA, and Houston-Galveston-Brazoria PMSA..*

*Period Available: US (1913-2003) S (1992-2002), Metro Areas (1998-current)*

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in prices paid by urban consumers for a basket of goods and services. It is frequently referred to as "cost of living" data.

## Staffing Patterns

*Geographical Areas: S, WDA*

*Period Available: Same as Projections*

How many employees in a department store are sales clerks? How many doctors are there in a typical hospital? These questions and others can be answered through Industry Staffing patterns. Staffing patterns consist of the occupations that are commonly found in a particular industry.

## Income

*Geographical Areas: US, S, MSA, Co.*

*Period Available: 1929-2002*

Produced by the Bureau of Economic Analysis and disseminated by Texas LMI. Income data is available as total income or as per capita income.

*Geographical Areas: US, S, Co.*

*Period Available: 1970-2001*

Produced by the Census Bureau and disseminated by Texas LMI.

## Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS)

*Geographical Areas: S, Co.*

*Period Available: 1999-Current*

Contains the number of layoff events and the primary reason for the layoff including the number of job separations.

We have now explored the four main sections of TRACER. In “**My TRACER**”, you can create your personal LMI homepage and save your customized queries. In “**Career Resources**”, you can find information to perform career research and find jobs. In “**Texas Labor Market**”, you can find employers and training information, and compare the labor market of two areas. Finally, in “**Data Link**”, you have quick access to all the data produced by LMI. TRACER is just one of the many ways that the LMI department provides data and service to our customers.

Please contact us if you have any questions about using the TRACER system. We will continue to keep you informed about the latest additions to our website through a monthly web update. If you need more information, please contact an LMI economist at 1-866-938-4444, or e-mail us at [lmi@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:lmi@twc.state.tx.us).