CareerHack 101:
What is LMI for All and how can I use it?
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Interested in entering in the LMI for All CareerHack contest but not sure where to start? Fear not! We’ve put together this handy guide to walk you through LMI for All, what the API means and how to use it – you’ll be on your way to submitting your entry in no time! Happy hacking!

Introduction

Every year in the UK a huge amount of high quality information is gathered about the UK labour market that could be used to help people make better decisions about their careers. Although this information is freely available, it is often not easy to access or understand.

The aim of LMI for All is to bring this data together in one place, making it available as an API to developers, app makers and web designers at no cost, so that they can incorporate it into websites and applications, providing high quality up to date information for their users.

Not sure of how you could use our data? This document is designed to show you the extent of the information available, and how you could make use of it. It also provides links to the documentation, syntax, support and some examples of how the data has been used so far.
The Data

Main datasets included in the LMI for All Database

The current version of the LMI for All database contains the following key datasets:

1. Employment and replacement demands from Working Futures: Provides very detailed information on job opportunities, covering a range of dimensions including occupation, industry, UK country/region, gender and employment status. As well as reporting actual historical employment levels this also includes projected future employment levels to 2020. It also includes estimates of Replacement Demand, which is a measure of job openings likely to arise over a selected period because of people who are currently employed retiring or leaving for other reasons.

2. Pay based on the Annual Survey of Hours (ASHE) and earnings and the Labour Force Survey (LFS): Provides the same level of detail on pay but does not include any projections. The current data is restricted to 2012 but it is planned to extend this as new data becomes available on the same basis.

3. Hours based on ASHE: Provides a similar level of detail for hours as for pay.

4. Unemployment rates based on the LFS: Provides information on Unemployment rates. In principle a similar level of detail is provided as for pay (again excluding any projections). However, small sample sizes mean that many of the more detailed results cannot be generated or published.

5. Skill shortage vacancies based on the Employer Skill Survey: Provides information on vacancies. At present this is based on the Employer Skills Survey and focuses on skills shortage vacancies.

6. Skills, abilities and interests data based on the US O*NET system: Provides detailed data on the skills, abilities and interests associated with particular occupations. The data are taken from the well-respected US O*NET system. They are tied to the UK occupational categories by a mapping that links each UK occupation with one or more US occupations.

In practice some of the details here and elsewhere may need to be suppressed because of concerns about privacy, disclosure of commercially sensitive information and lack of statistical robustness. Details of this are given in the description of the individual datasets on the LMI for All website.
What information can I get?

The API is called by your program. Each call to the API has different parameters and different results dependant on the data that is required. A full list can be seen in this link: http://api.lmiforall.org.uk/

Try it!

Want to get information on Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Codes? Easy! Go to http://api.lmiforall.org.uk/ and on the screen shown below click on the link for /SOC:

Syntax - easy as ABC

Open up /soc/search as shown above and then type in ‘retail’ in the parameter and then hit “Try it Out”.

This brings up the picture on the next page. It shows you the URL that you would embed in your code and also it shows the response that you would get.
Explore all the data

There are many different calls to the API that can be made, but the way to get them is just the same as you did for the SOC code. Try out the various options and see the wealth of data that is available. All of the different calls including, descriptions, are included in the link http://api.lmiforall.org.uk/

Still need a bit of hand? Don’t worry – there are plenty of web apps out there that will help you create an app from scratch – and you don’t need to know any coding to get started! While these won’t be perfect for everyone, and may be a bit restricting in terms of what they allow you to do, they will certainly get you off the ground, and can show you just how easy it is to end up with a slick looking app from nothing. There’s plenty to choose from, but here are some examples:

http://www.goodbarber.com/
http://apps.appy pie.com/
http://www.buzztouch.com/
http://mobile.conduit.com/
To make it easier to see how it works, UKCES have set up a simple demo web page. The link is below.

http://www.lmiforall.org.uk/examples/apidemo/

Open it up in Chrome (It is currently not compatible with Internet Explorer). Type in the part of the job title in the ‘Search for a Job’ box and on the right it will list all the jobs that relate to that key work. In the example below, the job ‘Architect’ has been searched and of those ones that appear, ‘Civil Engineer’ has been clicked on and the job information as well as pay information appears below.

Save this page to your PC and you can see the JavaScript that is used and you can re-use this if you wish.

Example sites

Here’s some more examples of websites which have already used the LMI for All API, why not have a look at how they have used it for some inspiration:

http://rcultd.co.uk/wf/
http://icould.com/job-title/1131/
http://hacks.rewiredstate.org/events/lmiforall

You can also view a video demo of a website utilising the LMI for All API here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NV5no8MbScQ
Support

There is a developer community forum at http://community.lmiforall.org.uk - please post any questions here and they will be answered within 24 hour during the working week, this should help you out with any sudden headaches! In addition to this, you can also tweet; find us on twitter @LMIforAll and tag your post with #Careerhack.

Documentation

The main documentation for LMI for All is here: http://www.lmiforall.org.uk/documentation/

There is also the following link that you may be interested in, it gives a step by step guide on how to use the data, as well as a few interactive examples (and some homework...): http://editor.monkeycruncher.org/view/985e3435-3052-4bd9-8c80-4ab489f2cb83

All of the above are best opened in Google Chrome.

The Competition

Ready to enter? Here’s a quick reminder of a few rules and how to apply:

The CareerHack App Challenge is open to anyone and has a first prize of £10,000. There is a runner-up prize of £5,000 and a further £5,000 prize for entries by students aged 16-24 who are engaged in Further Education.

All entries must be submitted with a brief YouTube video, showcasing how the app works and illustrating its potential. A panel of judges, including representatives from Google and Ubuntu, further education institutions and business leaders, will then pick the overall winner next February.

To enter the contest, you may participate as an individual or as a team and you will need to be capable of developing a workable app using LMI for All data. For more information please visit the contest website at http://careerhack.appchallenge.net/

The closing date for entries is 5pm on Friday the 21st of February 2014.
You can find all the details you need to apply at http://careerhack.appchallenge.net/

Or find us on Twitter: @LMIforAll #Careerhack