



New Enhancements to Labor Market and Career Information on the IDES Website

by Rachael Katz and Yolanda Harris

During the last few months, the Illinois Department of Employment Security has launched a new and improved agency website. The new design increases the usability of the site and standardizes information presentation. Part of the improvements included centralizing all agency programs into one website. This means that all of the IDES labor market information previously found at the LMI Source website has now been integrated into the agency's main website at www.ides.illinois.gov.

The redesigned IDES website takes simple steps to organize the agency's

public information in a user-friendly way. When someone accesses the site, they are presented with three different visitor pathways: Individual, Employer, or Workforce Partner. The user can select the category that best suits their needs. In each pathway, there is a link to pertinent Labor Market Information.

The Individual pathway has a "Career Information" link leading to resources for career planners, parents of students, and other labor market information that may be useful for an individual user. The Employer pathway has a "Labor Market Information" link that takes employers to reports and data that are

valuable for business planning, hiring and more. Likewise, the Workforce Partners pathway has a similar “Labor Market Information” link. It leads to reports and data that are practical to organizations that help individuals or businesses to achieve their employment goals.

There is also a fourth way to access labor market reports in the new IDES website. Under Tools and Resources, there is a link for “Data & Statistics.” This section contains links to all of the labor market information the agency produces. While the three pathways lead users to specific reports according to their needs, the Data & Statistics section provides access to all of our data in one place.

In addition to the improved user-friendly design, there is a new powerful search feature embedded at the top of each webpage. This feature enables users to find information in the website by a keyword search. Together, these

improvements allow both new and return users to find the labor market information they need more efficiently.

Updated Career Information Resources

IDES recently updated its online career planning resources for middle school, high school and college students and added a new career planning resource for adults called ReNEW.

CIS Junior Updates

CIS Junior, IDES’ online career resource for middle school and junior high students, now has more current wage and job outlook data. CIS Junior helps students begin answering the questions, “who am I, where am I going and how do I get there?”

Students can store their favorite occupations and their assessment results in My CIS Portfolio. They can also keep track of their courses from seventh grade onward and later move their

portfolios to CIS for high school and college students and then to ReNEW.

CIS Updates

CIS, the online Career Information System for high school students and adults, was updated with nine new occupations, including acupuncturists, genetic counselors and geothermal technicians. In addition, CIS now allows users to conduct filtered searches for occupations by educational requirements, wages, outlook and green content. Other CIS updates include new search options for schools, a new workbook called The Career Gateway Job Seekers Guide, and videos on green jobs and successful interviewing.

ReNEW

ReNEW is similar to the Career Information System but geared toward adults. It includes the Jobseeker Success Mindset Training online course for finding better jobs faster. It also has success stories from a wide variety of people who’ve used CIS and ReNEW.

--compiled by Lola Lucas



To Access Labor Market Information:

Log on to <http://www.ides.illinois.gov>

To access CIS Junior, CIS or ReNEW:

1. Go to <http://www.ides.illinois.gov/careerinfo>
2. Select “CIS Junior” or “Illinois Career Information System” or “ReNEW”
3. Log in as an Illinois resident with your city and zip