Under WIOA, the role of the State and Local Board is transformed. They have the lead in convening State, regional, and local workforce system partners to enhance the capacity and performance of the system, improve the effectiveness of workforce programs, promote economic growth, engage business and other stakeholders, and steward the realization of the State’s vision and goals as enumerated in the State, regional and local plans.

Functions identified for Workforce Boards within WIOA include the development of Unified State Plans and Local Plans, described in Sections 102(b) and 108(b), respectively, which contain requirements such as:

- An analysis of the current workforce, employment and unemployment data, labor market trends, and the educational and skill levels of the workforce.
- An analysis of the economic conditions, including existing and emerging in-demand industry sectors and occupations; and the employment needs of employers.

Furthermore, Section 106 of WIOA requires that States identify Local Workforce Development Areas after consultation with the local boards and chief elected officials that are consistent with labor market areas in the State, are consistent with regional economic development areas in the State, and have available the Federal and non-Federal resources necessary to effectively administer WIOA activities.

To perform those analyses, Boards must answer questions such as:

- What are the emerging industries and occupations in my state?
- What is the gender wage gap?
- What are the statewide employment and unemployment trends?
- What are the employment projections for my area?
- Where can I view wages by occupation?
- What are the employment dynamics of businesses in my area?
- What labor market data on veterans is available?
- What data are available that can help me?

State Labor Market Information (LMI) agencies provide answers to these and many other questions, enabling Boards to use data in effective ways that ensure that workforce investment, educational, and economic development strategies are based on accurate assessments of regional labor markets. LMI agencies’ contact information can be found here: [http://www.lmiontheweb.org/Directory/](http://www.lmiontheweb.org/Directory/)
The following are some LMI data resources available to all WIOA stakeholders:

**Guide to State and Local Workforce Data: For Analysis and Informed Decision-Making**
A table compiled by the Employment and Training Administration providing links and descriptions to LMI datasets.

**The LMI Institute**
[http://www.lmiontheweb.org](http://www.lmiontheweb.org)
The Labor Market Information Institute is the pre-eminent resource for supporting the development, interpretation, and use of labor market information.

**LMI Central**
[https://lmi.workforcegps.org/](https://lmi.workforcegps.org/)
A portal to innovative and relevant sources of workforce and labor market information for data-driven planning.

**O*NET Online**
[http://www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)
An interface to the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) system, a regularly updated database of occupational characteristics and worker requirements information across the U.S. economy.

**ETA Research Publication Database**
[https://wdr.doleta.gov/research](https://wdr.doleta.gov/research)
A collection of research and evaluation reports commissioned by ETA to help guide the workforce investment system in administering effective programs.

**FRED – Federal Reserve Economic Data visualization tool**
[https://fred.stlouisfed.org/](https://fred.stlouisfed.org/)
A tool that allows users to search, view, download, and graph economic data from 83 different sources.

**Census Bureau - American FactFinder**
[https://factfinder.census.gov/](https://factfinder.census.gov/)
A tool allowing users to search data collected from nearly one hundred surveys and censuses conducted every year.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Databases, Tables, and Calculators**
[https://www.bls.gov/data/](https://www.bls.gov/data/)
A compendium of tools to search data published by BLS.
Bureau of Economic Analysis Interactive Data Application

https://www.bea.gov/itable/index.cfm

The one stop shop for accessing BEA data on the fly.