

Labour market information: An essential part of Canada's skills agenda

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Reliable and useful jobs data is essential to delivering a well-functioning labour market and, more generally, a strong Canadian economy. Recent work by the Business Council and other groups has underlined the wide range of workplace skills required to achieve these goals. In particular, businesses are increasingly looking for workers with multi-faceted competencies—not just technical knowledge, but also so-called 'soft skills' such as collaboration and teamwork, problem-solving, relationship building and an openness to change. At its best, labour market information (LMI) provides clear signals that guide the various players towards the most appropriate choices. It helps identify the skills that business need, and how they can be developed. LMI is critical in matching workers with jobs (and vice versa), and highlighting gaps between the skills that are available and those in need. This paper provides advice to the Business Council of Canada on ways to sustain and develop Canada's labour market information.

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