



# Contract and Temporary Workers:

A supplemental report to the  
2010 Job Vacancy Survey

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## Executive Summary

During the 2010 Job Vacancy Survey, employers were asked if they had hired workers through a contractor or temporary help agency in the past year due to a local shortage of those workers. They were asked to specify the origin of contract/temporary workers (in-state or out-of-state) and their job titles. From these responses, the number of positions filled by contract/ temporary workers was estimated for the state by Regional Labor Market Area (RLMA), by industry using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) supersectors and by occupation using Standard Occupational Codes (SOC).

- There were an estimated 55,601 contract/temporary workers in Louisiana during the past year; of which, approximately 72 percent were filled by Louisiana residents.
- The Shreveport and New Orleans regions have the greatest number of contract/ temporary workers with 13,721 and 13,267 workers respectively. Shreveport and Lafayette have the highest percent of contract workers among the employed with 7.8 and 7.2 percent respectively.
- The three industry supersectors with the most contract/temporary workers, Manufacturing, Professional and Business Services and Construction, account for 64 percent of contract/temporary workers.
- The three major occupational groups with the most contract/temporary workers were Production, Transportation and Material Moving, and Construction, and Extraction. Production workers alone account for over 16 percent of all contract/temporary workers in the state.
- The three most common occupations among contract/temporary workers were Helpers—Production Workers, Food Preparation Workers, and Construction Laborers.

## Temporary/Contract Workers by Region

There were an estimated 55,601 positions filled by temporary/contract workers in Louisiana during the past year, which represents approximately 2.9 percent of those employed in the state. Table 1 summarizes the prevalence of temporary/contract workers in the eight Regional Labor Market Areas (RLMA). The Shreveport and New Orleans regions have the highest number of temporary/contract workers with 13,721 and 13,267 respectively. When compared to regional employment figures, the Shreveport and Lafayette regions have the highest percent of temporary/contract workers with 7.8 and 7.2 percent respectively. Baton Rouge and Alexandria have the smallest percent of temporary/contract workers with 1.4 and 1.7 percent respectively.

**Table 1: Temporary/Contract Workers by Regional Labor Market Area**

RLMA	Regional Employment (BLS CES)	Number of Contract Workers	Percent Contract Workers
New Orleans	518,700	13,267	2.6
Baton Rouge	369,900	5,357	1.4
Houma	93,700	5,169	5.5
Lafayette	147,600	10,566	7.2
Lake Charles	90,700	4,630	5.1
Alexandria	65,100	1,075	1.7
Shreveport	175,800	13,721	7.8
Monroe	76,600	1,817	2.4
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,899,000</b>	<b>55,601</b>	<b>2.9%</b>

Employers were asked how many of the temporary/contract workers they hired were Louisiana residents and how many were hired from out-of-state. This information is summarized by region in Table 2. Statewide, employers report that 28 percent of temporary/contract workers hired during the past year were not Louisiana residents. In three regions, Lafayette, New Orleans and Houma, out-of-state workers account for a quarter or more of the region's temporary/contract workers with 51, 44, and 25 percent respectively. In the Lake Charles and Alexandria regions, out-of-state workers comprised only 5 percent of temporary/contract workers.

**Table 2: Temporary/Contract Workers by Regional Labor Market Area and Origin**

RLMA	Number of Contract Workers	Percent Louisiana Residents	Percent Non-Louisiana Residents
New Orleans	13,267	56	44
Baton Rouge	5,357	82	18
Houma	5,169	75	25
Lafayette	10,566	49	51
Lake Charles	4,630	95	5
Alexandria	1,075	95	5
Shreveport	13,721	89	11
Monroe	1,817	84	16
<b>Statewide</b>	55,601	72%	28%

## Temporary/Contract Workers by Industry

Table 3 reports the estimated number of contract/temporary workers by industry, as defined by industry supersector. The top four industry supersectors by number of contract workers are: Manufacturing; Construction; Trade, Transportation and Utilities; and Professional and Business Services. Together these four industries account for 80.9 percent of contract/temporary workers. These four industries also represent the industries with the highest percentage of contract/temporary workers relative to overall employment. In the top two industries, Manufacturing and Construction, temporary/contract workers account for over 9 percent of industry employment. In other subsectors, temporary/contract workers have a smaller presence. In the Other Services, Information and Government industries, contract/temporary workers are less than 1 percent of industry employment.

**Table 3: Contract/Temporary Workers by Industry**

Industry Supersectors	Number of Contract Workers	Percent Contract Workers	La Industry Employment (BLS CES)	Contract Workers as % of Industry Employment
Manufacturing	13,678	24.6	142,300	9.6
Construction	11,905	21.4	130,000	9.2
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	10,052	18.1	369,200	2.7
Professional and Business Services	9,360	16.8	193,500	4.8
Education and Health Services	4,165	7.5	266,100	1.6
Leisure and Hospitality	2,778	5.0	195,300	1.4
Financial Activities	1,631	2.9	90,800	1.8
Natural Resources and Mining	1,259	2.3	50,700	2.5
Other Services	555	1.0	68,200	< 1.0
Information	127	< 1.0	24,600	< 1.0
Government	91	< 1.0	368,300	< 1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,601</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,899,000</b>	<b>2.9%</b>

## Temporary/Contract Workers by Occupation

Assigning Standard Occupational Codes (SOC) to the reported contract/temporary worker positions provides estimates by occupation. In Table 4, the number of contract/temporary workers is reported by major occupational groups. The occupational group with the greatest number of contract/temporary workers is Production with over 16 percent of contract/temporary workers. Transportation and Material Moving occupations are second in number of contract/temporary workers with 12 percent. Due to blank and imprecise job descriptions, not all positions were assigned an SOC. The unclassified positions and major occupational groups with fewer than 744 contract/temporary workers are not included in the table, but are reflected in the total.

**Table 4: Contract/Temporary Workers by Occupation**

Occupational Groups	Number of Contract Workers	Percent Contract Workers
Production	9,031	16.2
Transportation & Material Moving	6,447	11.6
Construction & Extraction	5,598	10.1
Food Preparation & Serving Related	5,074	9.1
Business & Financial Operations	4,257	7.7
Office & Administrative Support	3,449	6.2
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	2,001	3.6
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	1,250	2.2
Management	792	1.4
Architecture & Engineering	744	1.3
<b>Total *</b>	<b>55,601</b>	

\* The total includes blank and indeterminate job descriptions that were not classified as well as those in major occupational groups with fewer than 744 contract/temporary workers.

## Temporary/Contract Workers by Occupation

Table 5 reports the top ten detailed occupational titles with respect to the number of contract/temporary worker positions. Production workers are the most common contract/temporary workers.

**Table 5: Top Ten Occupations by Contract/Temporary Workers**

Occupations	Number of Contract Workers
Helpers — Production Workers	3,832
Food Preparation Workers	3,631
Construction Laborers	3,000
Financial Examiners	2,972
Laborers and Freight Handlers	2,601
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	2,137
Plumbers, Pipefitters and Steamfitters	1,960
Packers and Packagers, Hand	1,690
Light Truck or Delivery Service Drivers	1,636
Farm Laborers	1,333

### Conclusion

Changes were made to the 2010 survey instrument that may prevent direct comparison of this report to previous years' temporary/contract worker reports. This year's instrument was designed to be less inclusive of temporary/contract workers than last year's survey. Rather than asking if temporary/contract workers were hired in general during the past year, this year's survey asks only about temporary/contract workers who were hired in the past year due specifically to a local shortage of those workers. However, as discussed below, results of this year's survey are quite similar to those based on the 2009 survey. Also, additional information was gathered about the number of workers hired from in-state and out-of-state for each position filled by temporary/contract workers.

Despite the less inclusive question in the 2010 survey, the number of temporary/contract workers estimated in 2010 is very similar to that of 2009 (55,601 and 55,739, respectively). The addition of the qualifier, "due to a shortage of those workers in your local area," may have been ineffective in identifying the target contract/temporary workers or there may have been an increase in these positions in the past year. However, the latter seems unlikely as four questions included in the 2009 survey, but eliminated from the 2010 survey, asked respondents to specify the type of contract/temporary positions they hire. Four options were given: temporary workers obtained for short-term assignments; workers employed for long-term assignments; out-of-state workers paid by an out-of-state contractor; and out-of-state workers needed due to labor shortages in Louisiana. In 2009, 57 percent of respondents indicated that their contract/temporary workers were hired for long-term assignments. It seems like some, if not all, of these 57 percent of contract/temporary workers would not fall into the target group for 2010, those who were hired as contract/temporary workers because of a local labor shortage.