



2015 Louisiana Job Vacancy Survey



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INTRODUCTION

The Louisiana Job Vacancy Survey is designed to gather targeted information from Louisiana employers to provide a detailed snapshot of labor demand within the state. The survey was conducted during the second quarter of 2015, from the middle of May through the end of June, and included businesses located in all eight Regional Labor Market Areas (RLMA). Approximately 9,000 businesses were surveyed over the three month period, and job vacancy information was obtained from roughly 3,100 employers. In addition to the titles and number of vacant positions, the survey gathered information on educational and experience requirements, starting wages, and employers' perceptions on difficulties in meeting their labor demands. This report summarizes the results of the 2015 Job Vacancy Survey.

STATEWIDE RESULTS

There were an estimated 61,830 job vacancies in Louisiana at a given point-in-time in the second quarter of 2015, resulting in a vacancy rate of 3.2 percent. This year's results show that the number of vacancies is roughly in line with last year's vacancy rate of 3.3 percent. However, the median starting wage of vacant positions has increased to \$11.00 an hour from less than \$10.00 last year.

Table 1: Statewide Vacancy Rate by Year

Year	Industry Employment ¹	Number of Vacancies	Vacancy Rate	Median Hourly Wage
2008	1,900,944	77,574	4.1%	\$10.00
2009	1,867,437	40,049	2.1%	\$10.00
2010	1,826,337	30,181	1.7%	\$10.71
2011	1,847,635	20,411	1.1%	\$12.00
2014	1,911,414	63,972	3.3%	\$9.89
2015	1,922,767	61,830	3.2%	\$11.00

The industry group **Trade, Transportation & Utilities** leads statewide in number of vacancies (14,760 vacancies), followed by **Education & Health Services** (13,890 vacancies) and **Leisure & Hospitality** (13,320 vacancies). When ranking industry groups by vacancy rate, calculated as the number of vacancies divided by employment within the industry group, **Leisure & Hospitality** leads with a rate of 5.7 percent. The industry group **Other Services** - including firms specializing in repair, maintenance, and personal services - follows with a 4.7 percent vacancy rate. **Trade, Transportation & Utilities** has the third highest industry group vacancy rate with 3.7 out of every 100 positions in the industry group vacant. The substantial drop in oil prices is evident in **Natural Resources & Mining** having the lowest vacancy rate of any industry group with less than 1 percent of positions open at the time of the survey.

¹ Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. BLS.

Table 2: 2015 Statewide Vacancies by Industry Group

Industry Group	Industry Employment ²	Number of Vacancies	Vacancy Rate	Median Hourly Wage
Natural Resources and Mining	56,919	470	0.8%	\$12.00
Construction	145,295	4,560	3.1%	\$18.00
Manufacturing	146,047	2,460	1.7%	\$16.00
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	400,761	14,760	3.7%	\$11.50
Information	28,891	860	3.0%	\$12.00
Financial Activities	89,479	1,800	2.0%	\$13.00
Professional and Business Services	219,219	5,610	2.6%	\$14.40
Education and Health Services	461,115	13,890	3.0%	\$14.00
Leisure and Hospitality	231,745	13,320	5.7%	\$7.30
Other Services	46,810	2,200	4.7%	\$9.00
Public Administration	95,932	1,910	2.0%	\$17.80
Unclassified	554	Less than 50	Less than 0.5%	NA
Total	1,922,767	61,830	3.2%	\$11.00

In contrast to the results by industry group, which categorizes vacancies by the primary product or service produced by the business, results by occupation group illustrate demand for workers according to their job function regardless of the type of business at which they are employed. Every job title reported on the survey was coded using the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) System with results reported at the major occupation group level. **Food Preparation & Serving Related** occupations continue to have the largest number of vacancies with 9,450 open positions across the state. **Transportation & Material Moving** has the second highest number of vacancies, followed by **Healthcare Practitioner & Technical** occupations with 8,680 and 5,780 open positions respectively. When ranking occupation groups by vacancy rate, **Transportation & Material Moving** has the high percentage of vacant positions, with 5.8 out of every 100 positions vacant at the time of survey. **Farming, Fishing & Forestry** ranks second with a 5.5 percent vacancy rate, and **Food Preparation & Serving Related** ranks third with 5.3 out of every 100 positions vacant.

For all occupation groups, the median starting wage of vacant positions is \$11.00 an hour. **Food Preparation & Serving Related** occupations have the lowest median starting wage at \$7.30 followed by **Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance** and **Personal Care and Service** occupations. The highest starting wages for vacant positions are in the **Architecture & Engineering** occupation group with a median starting wage of \$28.00 an hour. The **Computer & Mathematical Science** and **Transportation & Material Moving** occupation groups have the second and third highest median starting wages. Additionally, the **Construction & Extraction** and **Production** occupation groups are noteworthy for having relatively high median starting wages while generally requiring low levels of post-secondary education.

² Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (1st Quarter 2015). BLS.

Table 3: 2015 Statewide Vacancies by Major Occupation Group

Occupational Group	Employment in Occupation Group ³	Number of Vacancies	Vacancy Rate, Percent	Median Hourly Wage	Percent requiring more than a high school diploma	Percent Requiring at least some experience	Median Length of Vacancy, Months
Management	81,980	3,530	4.3%	\$19.20	65%	78%	1-3 months
Business & Financial Operations	63,120	1,080	1.7%	\$16.80	78%	88%	1-3 months
Computer & Mathematical Science	20,340	900	4.4%	\$24.10	90%	92%	3-6 months
Architecture & Engineering	34,770	930	2.7%	\$28.00	76%	85%	1-3 months
Life, Physical & Social Science	10,710	520	4.9%	\$21.00	77%	80%	1-3 months
Community & Social Services	23,480	700	3.0%	\$13.00	86%	74%	1-3 months
Legal	13,380	140	1.0%	\$19.20	81%	92%	1-3 months
Education, Training & Library	107,590	2,420	2.2%	\$9.50	74%	72%	Less than 1 month
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	21,300	540	2.5%	\$13.00	60%	89%	1-3 months
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	123,370	5,780	4.7%	\$19.00	78%	74%	1-3 months
Healthcare Support	57,900	2,530	4.4%	\$8.80	70%	36%	1-3 months
Protective Service	56,750	850	1.5%	\$14.20	11%	45%	1-3 months
Food Preparation & Serving Related	179,090	9,450	5.3%	\$7.30	6%	39%	1-3 months
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	58,440	1,880	3.2%	\$8.00	2%	64%	1-3 months
Personal Care & Service	67,990	1,960	2.9%	\$8.00	21%	66%	Less than 1 month
Sales & Related	212,630	5,590	2.6%	\$8.70	13%	45%	1-3 months
Office & Administrative Support	281,880	4,420	1.6%	\$10.00	19%	68%	Less than 1 month
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	3,440	190	5.5%	\$9.00	NA	47%	1-3 months
Construction & Extraction	121,540	3,720	3.1%	\$17.00	16%	81%	Less than 1 month
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	103,740	2,600	2.5%	\$12.90	32%	75%	1-3 months
Production	123,860	2,560	2.1%	\$16.00	12%	73%	1-3 months
Transportation & Material Moving	148,500	8,680	5.8%	\$24.00	53%	76%	1-3 months
Non-Classifiable Occupations	NA	870	NA	\$13.00	12%	68%	3-6 months
Total	1,915,800	61,830	3.2%	\$11.00	33%	63%	1-3 months

³ Louisiana Occupational Employment and Wages (2014).

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Lake Charles region continued to have the highest vacancy rate at 3.6 percent. Baton Rouge has a vacancy rate slightly above the state average while Alexandria is slightly below. The Houma and Lafayette regions stand out with vacancy rates approximately one percentage point below the state average. However, the Lafayette region boasts the highest median starting wage for vacant positions at \$13.00 followed by New Orleans and Baton Rouge. The lowest median starting wages are in Shreveport and Lafayette at \$8.00 and \$9.00 an hour respectively.

Table 4: 2015 Vacancies by Regional Labor Market Area

Region	Industry Employment ⁴	Number of Vacancies	Vacancy Rate	Median Hourly Wage
New Orleans	539,327	17,100	3.2%	\$12.00
Baton Rouge	432,453	14,750	3.4%	\$10.90
Houma	100,451	2,200	2.2%	\$13.00
Lafayette	270,241	6,320	2.3%	\$9.00
Lake Charles	122,910	4,380	3.6%	\$10.00
Alexandria	103,103	3,100	3.0%	\$10.00
Shreveport	224,468	6,950	3.1%	\$8.00
Monroe	107,590	3,430	3.2%	\$10.00

⁴ Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (1st Quarter 2015). BLS.