

Alexandria Regional (RLMA 6) Job Vacancy Survey, 2006 Second Quarter



Employers' Responses to the Open-ended Question: In trying to fill this position, what is the greatest difficulty you have faced, if any?		
Difficulty	Number of Responses	Percent of Responses
Finding people that want to work. Not enough applications submitted.	23	20.9%
We have been unable to find qualified applicants and/or applicants with experience.	12	10.9
Some aspect of the job is undesirable to applicants (such as shifts, weekends, nights, holidays, overtime, travel, environment, schedule changes, heavy lifting, on call, etc.)	12	10.9
No reported difficulty in filling vacancy.	12	10.9
Some other difficulty mentioned.	10	9.1
There is a shortage of people in the occupation.	9	8.2
Finding people to pass a drug test or background check (such as driving record or credit check) or pre-employment testing and screening.	8	7.3
Qualified applicants will not work for the compensation package we offer. Low paying job and/or competitive rates based on supply and demand.	7	6.4
We have been unable to find applicants with the specific experience, training, skills and/or certification that we are seeking.	6	5.5
The work ethic of people, once they are hired, is unacceptable. Comments included social skills, appearance, trustworthy, attitude, maturity, able to fit in with existing culture, and dependability.	6	5.5
Turnover—keeping people once they have been hired is the biggest problem.	5	4.5
Total Responding to the Open-ended Question	110	100.0%

These answers are not necessarily verbatim responses, but a compilation of similar responses.

Industry Group vs. Occupational Group Explanation

An industry is a group of establishments, categorized according to the goods or services they provide. For purposes of this study, many of the industry sectors are grouped together to provide summary information. For instance, the industry sectors of Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, Transportation and Warehousing, and Utilities are combined to form a summary industry group called Trade, Transportation & Utilities.

An occupational group is a group of workers, categorized according to the skills they have and what they do on the job. For example, Healthcare Practitioner and Technical Occupations is one occupational group that includes many different types of occupations such as Dentists, Optometrists, Therapists, Veterinarians, Diagnostic related Technologists and Technicians, and Medical Records and Health Information Technicians. These are just a few of the occupations you can find in this occupational group.

Each industry contains a variety of occupations, and many occupations may be found in every industry. Using Healthcare Services (part of the summary industry group of Education & Health Services) as an example, you may find the following occupations in a hospital: doctors, therapists, office managers, medical records clerks, housekeepers, nurses, food preparation workers, and maintenance workers.

Methodology

During the second quarter 2006, a Job Vacancy Survey was conducted based on a random sample of Louisiana establishments covered by the Louisiana's unemployment insurance tax laws. The sample was stratified by firm size, regional labor market area, and industry. The total sample size was 9,933 with an overall response rate of 34 percent. This survey was taken after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Second Quarter 2006 Job Vacancy Survey reports for the state and eight regional labor market areas (RLMAs) can be found on the LDOL Web site: www.LAWORKS.net/qm_JVS.asp.

The purpose of a Job Vacancy Survey (JVS) is to identify the number and types of jobs available in specific industries and regions of the state. The survey results provide a unique snapshot of the conditions in a given region and/or occupational labor market. The results of the survey assist educational units, employment and training providers, and local workforce councils in responding to industry needs. The Regional Labor Market Area 6 (RLMA 6) is made up of Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon, and Winn parishes.

There were approximately 5,700 job vacancies in RLMA 6 during the 2nd quarter 2006 resulting in a vacancy rate of 5.3 percent. This means that for every 100 jobs, approximately 5 jobs were vacant. The number of job vacancies increased by approximately 3,600 over 2nd quarter 2005, a 170 percent increase. The largest number of job vacancies was found in Transportation and Material Moving (approximately 800) while the largest vacancy rate (13.8 percent) was found in Personal Care and Service.

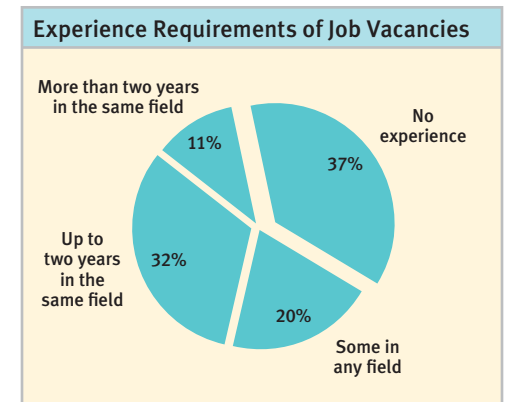
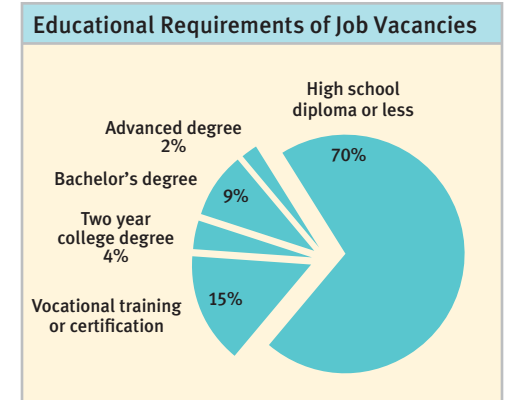
Other Services had the largest number of job vacancies (approximately 1,300) and the

highest vacancy rate of 53.4 percent when looking at the results by Industry Group (table below).

Overall, RLMA 6 employers were seeking employees with experience in 63 percent of the job vacancies. The number of job vacancies requiring high school diploma or less increased by approximately 158 percent over 2005 JVS results. Approximately 30 percent of the job vacancies required training past high school with 19 percent requiring vocational training, certificate, or two year college degree.

For job vacancies paying \$5.15 or less, there were 87 percent more in 2006 than in 2005. However, for jobs paying \$5.15–\$7.00 there were 67 percent more vacancies; \$7.01–\$10.00 there were 236 percent more vacancies; for \$10.01–\$13.00 there were 92 percent less job vacancies; for \$13.01–\$16.00 there were 327 percent more job vacancies; and for job vacancies over \$16.00 per hour there were 827 percent more vacancies.

The number of job vacancies for 2006 was approximately 2.7 times more than the number in 2005. Approximately one-twentieth (5 percent) of the job vacancies for the state were found in RLMA 6.



Industry Group	Number of Job Vacancies	Industry Employment		Vacancy Rate, Percent		Median Hourly Wage	
		Pre-Katrina	Post-Katrina	Pre-Katrina	Post-Katrina	Pre-Katrina	Post-Katrina
Other Services	1,276	2,302	2,390	0.3%	53.4%	\$5.50	\$9.77
Education & Health Services	971	32,673	33,280	1.6	2.9	11.55	6.76
Leisure & Hospitality	913	9,753	10,014	3.6	9.1	6.00	5.50
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	912	19,916	20,056	3.3	4.6	6.33	16.83
Manufacturing	518	5,689	6,282	4.5	8.3	10.00	15.48
Professional & Business Services	431	9,462	10,851	1.3	4.0	9.86	16.83
Unclassified	297	71	142	NA	NA	NA	7.50
Construction	233	7,112	7,196	2.0	3.2	9.00	14.00
Financial Activities	78	4,277	4,326	0.6	1.8	15.63	NA
Public Administration	62	8,479	8,251	0.2	0.8	6.00	7.50
Natural Resources & Mining	8	2,826	2,760	0.7	0.3	16.00	13.00
Information	7	1,566	1,503	1.3	0.5	7.67	6.33
Total	5,706	104,126	107,051	2.0%	5.3%	\$8.58	\$9.08

Pre-Katrina Data 2nd Quarter 2005
Post-Katrina Data 2nd Quarter 2006

Unclassified for Employment: Industry NAICS could not be determined
Unclassified for Job Vacancy: Occupational Code could not be determined
NA: Not Available

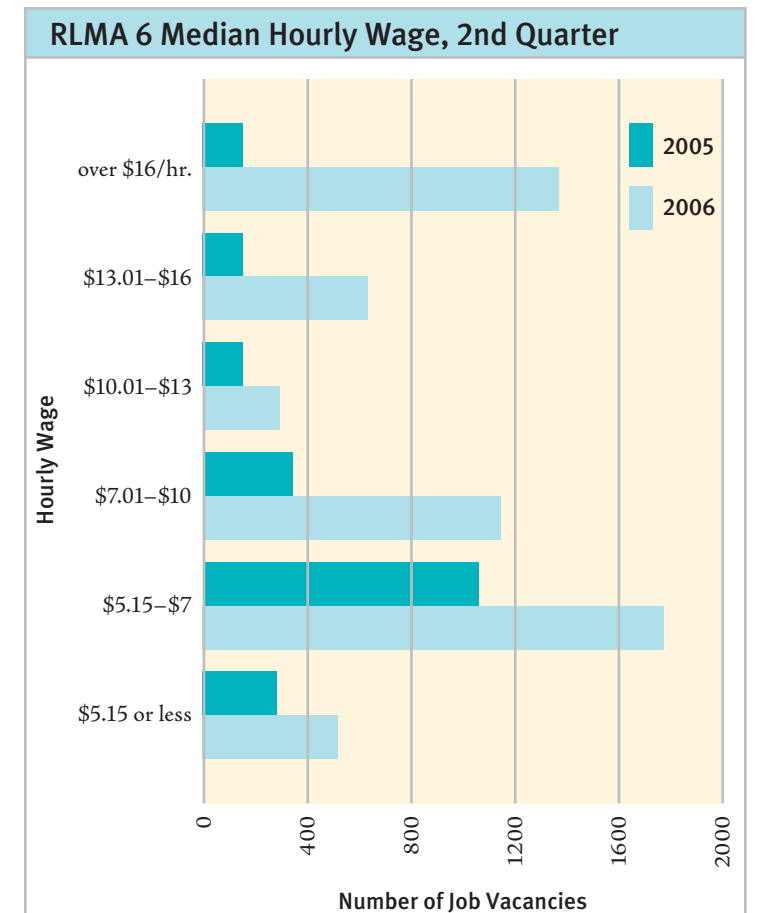
Alexandria Regional (RLMA 6)

Job Vacancy Survey, 2006 Second Quarter



Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Employment in Occupation	Percent Requiring at Least Some Some Work Experience	Percent Requiring More Than a High School Diploma	Median Number of Days Position was Vacant	Median Hourly Wage		Vacancy Rate, Percent	
						Pre-Katrina	Post-Katrina	Pre-Katrina	Post-Katrina
Architecture & Engineering	136	990	97.8%	67.6%	90	NA	NA	0.0%	13.7%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	9	710	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.9	1.3
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	224	3,690	83.9	NA	60	\$5.75	\$5.50	0.2	6.1
Business & Financial Operations	242	2,850	46.5	38.5	0	20.67	24.00	1.0	8.5
Community & Social Services	38	1,730	5.3	100.0	7	7.68	5.29	0.2	2.2
Computer & Mathematical Science	18	440	NA	NA	NA	8.40	NA	7.7	4.1
Construction & Extraction	621	5,130	55.3	13.8	42	10.00	10.00	3.2	12.1
Education, Training & Library	113	7,200	13.8	100.0	28	12.43	12.50	0.4	1.6
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	19	980	100.0	1.8	30	16.00	7.50	1.2	1.9
Food Preparation & Serving Related	504	8,490	39.4	11.9	30	5.15	5.50	4.0	5.9
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	385	8,070	40.9	98.8	90	15.43	17.25	2.7	4.8
Healthcare Support	167	4,250	0.6	43.8	7	5.85	6.00	3.0	3.9
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	633	5,130	73.5	59.3	180	12.00	16.83	2.5	12.3
Legal	0	600	0.0	0.0	0	NA	0.00	0.0	0.0
Life, Physical & Social Science	4	580	100.0	75.0	3	15.69	35.61	1.2	0.7
Management	90	4,880	NA	NA	NA	14.94	NA	0.5	1.8
Non-Classifiable Occupations	5	NA	100.0	100.0	21	9.73	NA	NA	NA
Office & Administrative Support	372	16,230	49.3	45.5	1	7.00	7.90	1.9	2.3
Personal Care & Service	455	3,290	63.8	NA	120	6.63	5.25	2.2	13.8
Production	408	4,280	94.0	6.5	150	11.25	15.48	3.4	9.5
Protective Service	85	4,320	96.5	23.9	120	7.73	8.06	0.4	2.0
Sales & Related	370	9,920	NA	NA	30	6.20	5.30	2.7	3.7
Transportation & Material Moving	810	8,480	78.0	0.7	360	10.00	16.83	2.3	9.6
Total	5,706	102,240	63.2%	30.1%	90	\$8.98	\$9.08	2.1%	5.6%

Top 10 Job Openings	
Title	Vacancies
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	522
Bus & Truck Mechanics & Diesel Engine Specialists	297
Cashiers	276
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	205
Paving, Surfacing, & Tamping Equipment Operators	179
Refuse & Recyclable Material Collectors	176
Nonfarm Animal Caretakers	176
Carpenters	171
Cooks, All Other	151
Customer Service Representatives	148



Pre-Katrina Data 2nd Quarter 2005
 Post-Katrina Data 2nd Quarter 2006
 NA: Not Available

Revised November 2007