

# Alexandria Regional (RLMA 6) Job Vacancy Survey, 2007 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
We have been unable to find qualified applicants and/or applicants with experience.	32	25.6%
We have been unable to find applicants with the specific experience, training, skills and/or certification that we are seeking.	27	21.6
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.	15	12.0
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.)	14	11.2
Qualified applicants will not work for the compensation package we offer. Low paying job and/or competitive rates based on supply and demand.	9	7.2
Finding people that want to work. Not enough applications submitted.	7	5.6
Applicants availability or location of job (may not have housing and/or transportation).	7	5.6
No reported difficulty in filling vacancy.	5	4.0
There is a shortage of people in the occupation.	3	2.4
Some other difficulty mentioned.	2	1.6
Finding people to pass a drug test or background check (such as driving record or credit check) or pre-employment testing and screening.	2	1.6
Turnover—keeping people once they have been hired is the biggest problem.	2	1.6
<b>Total Responding to the Open-ended Question</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>100%</b>

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, and 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 Educational and 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 2007, a Job Vacancy Survey was conducted based on a random sample of Louisiana establishments covered by the Louisiana unemployment insurance tax laws. The sample was stratified by firm size, RLMA, and industry. The total sample size was 7,933 with an overall response rate of 39 percent. The Second Quarter 2007 Job Vacancy Survey reports for the state and eight RLMAs can be found on the Louisiana Department of Labor's Web site: [www.LAWORKS.net/LaborMarketInfo/LMI\\_JVS.asp](http://www.LAWORKS.net/LaborMarketInfo/LMI_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. Regional Labor Market Area 6 (RLMA 6) is made up of Avoyelles, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Rapides, Vernon, and Winn parishes.

There were 5,500 job vacancies in RLMA 6 during the 2nd quarter 2007 resulting in a vacancy rate of 5.2 percent. This means that for every 100 jobs, about 5 jobs were vacant. The number of job vacancies decreased by approximately 180 from the 2nd quarter of 2006, a 3 percent decrease.

Among the occupational groups, Construction and Extraction had both the highest vacancy rate (18 percent) and number of vacancies (870). Among the industry groups, Construction had the highest vacancy rate (10.3 percent), and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities had the highest number of

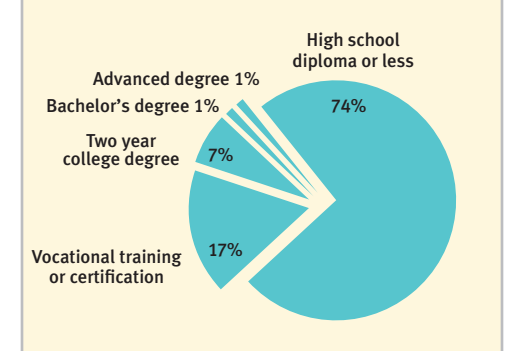
vacancies (1,360).

Overall, RLMA 6 employers were seeking employees with experience in 64 percent of the job vacancies. The number of job vacancies requiring a high school diploma or less was 74 percent of all vacancies. Less than 30 percent of the job vacancies required training past high school with 24 percent requiring vocational training, certificate, or two year college degree.

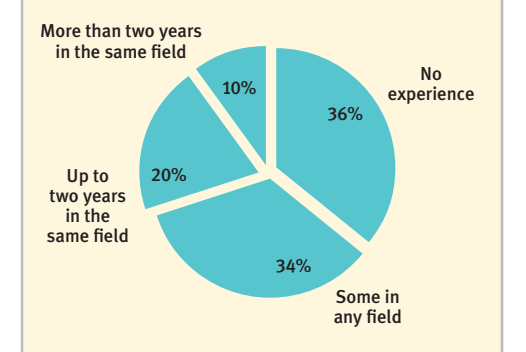
For jobs paying \$5.15 or less, there were only 160 vacancies. However, for jobs paying \$5.15–\$7.00 there were almost 2,200 vacancies; for \$7.01–\$10.00 there were about 1,600 vacancies; for \$10.01–\$13.00 there were more than 600 vacancies; and for job vacancies over \$16.00 per hour there were slightly less than 900 vacancies.

The number of job vacancies in RLMA 6 for 2007 was approximately the same as the number of vacancies in 2006. Job vacancies in RLMA 6 accounted for only 6 percent of all vacancies in the state.

## Educational Requirements of Job Vacancies



## Experience Requirements of Job Vacancies



Industry Group	Number of Vacancies	Industry Employment <sup>1</sup>	Median Hourly Wage	Vacancy Rate, Percent		
				2007Q2	2006Q2	2005Q2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	1,360	20,592	\$10.00	6.6%	4.6%	3.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	971	10,251	6.40	9.5	9.1	3.6
Education & Health Services	883	33,179	8.00	2.7	2.9	1.6
Construction	762	7,359	11.00	10.3	3.2	2.0
Professional & Business Services	487	9,977	7.88	4.9	4.0	1.3
Manufacturing	396	6,872	11.18	5.8	8.3	4.5
Financial Activities	298	4,398	8.50	6.8	1.8	0.6
Public Administration	171	8,283	12.30	2.1	0.8	0.2
Other Services	109	2,458	NA	4.4	53.4	0.3
Information	61	1,499	6.38	4.1	0.5	1.3
Natural Resources & Mining	23	2,848	10.00	0.8	0.3	0.7
Unclassified	NA	119	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,520</b>	<b>107,835</b>	<b>\$7.50</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>

<sup>1</sup> 2007 Q2

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)

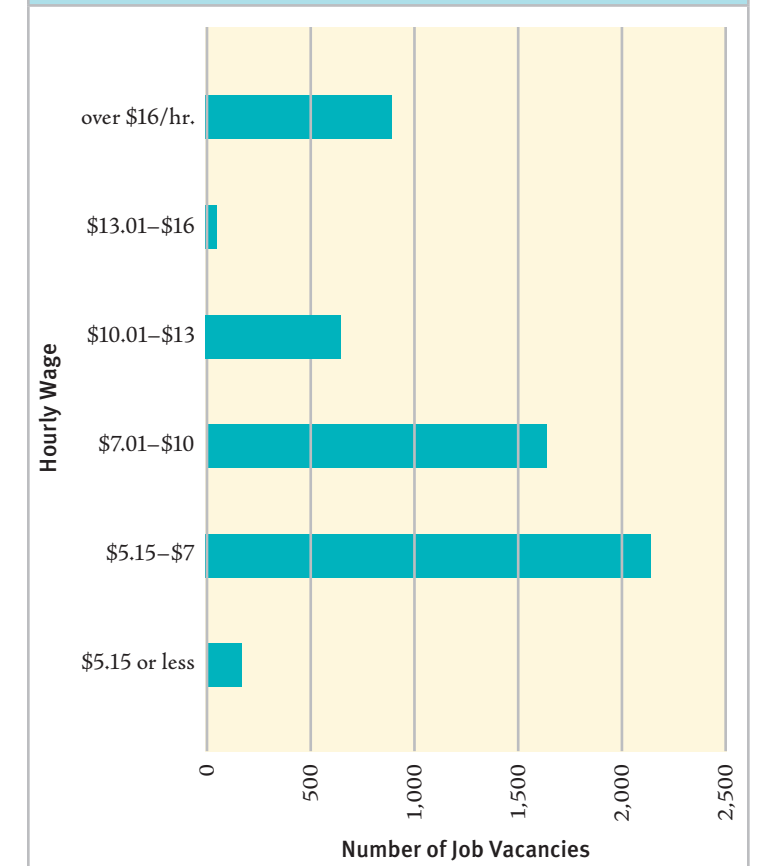
## Job Vacancy Survey, 2007 Second Quarter



Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Employment in Occupation	Percent Requiring at Least Some Work Experience	Percent Requiring More Than a High School Diploma	Median Number of Days Position Was Vacant	Median Hourly Wage	Vacancy Rate, Percent		
							2007Q2	2006Q2	2005Q2
Architecture & Engineering	117	940	7.2%	4.1%	60	\$16.00	12.5%	13.7%	0.0%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	83	840	95.5	0.0	18	6.50	9.8	1.3	0.9
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	286	4,030	32.8	0.0	30	6.80	7.1	6.1	0.2
Business & Financial Operations	4	2,760	100	0.0	14	9.00	0.1	8.5	1.0
Community & Social Services	61	1,730	100	100	2	10.50	3.5	2.2	0.2
Computer & Mathematical Science	41	480	100	100	75	21.30	8.5	4.1	7.7
Construction & Extraction	870	4,780	89.8	21.7	14	10.00	18.2	12.1	3.2
Education, Training & Library	344	7,570	78.8	100	21	12.02	4.5	1.6	0.4
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	3	1,100	100	0.0	3	10.00	0.3	1.9	1.2
Food Preparation & Serving Related	713	8,540	15.2	0.0	21	5.88	8.3	5.9	4.0
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	208	8,580	49.0	68.5	51	18.75	2.4	4.8	2.7
Healthcare Support	462	4,470	3.7	29.9	14	6.83	10.3	3.9	3.0
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	544	4,980	82.4	61.7	90	10.00	10.9	12.3	2.5
Legal	0	600	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0
Life, Physical & Social Science	0	780	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0.7	1.2
Management	63	4,310	30.4	3.2	60	8.88	1.5	1.8	0.5
Military	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Non-Classifiable Occupations	73	NA	80.8	0.0	0	6.50	NA	NA	NA
Office & Administrative Support	363	17,940	90.3	45.9	30	9.00	2.0	2.3	1.9
Personal Care & Service	77	2,990	52.2	0.0	4	5.15	2.6	13.8	2.2
Production	169	4,550	77.8	16.2	13	12.00	3.7	9.5	3.4
Protective Service	76	4,700	10.6	47.8	22	12.69	1.6	2.0	0.4
Sales & Related	555	11,110	54.8	37.8	30	7.50	5.0	3.7	2.7
Transportation & Material Moving	410	7,920	100	0.0	20	8.38	5.2	9.6	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,520</b>	<b>105,700</b>	<b>63.2%</b>	<b>26.1%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>\$7.50</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>

Top 10 Job Openings	
Title	Vacancies
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	476
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants	445
Post-secondary Teachers	306
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	267
Cashiers	251
Construction Laborers	218
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	209
Retail Salespersons	191
Electricians	178
Janitors & Cleaners	171

RLMA 6 Median Hourly Wage, 2nd Quarter 2007



NA: Not Available