

Houma Regional (RLMA 3) 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.	29	29.3%
We have been unable to find applicants with the specific experience, training, skills and/or certification that we are seeking.	11	11.1
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.)	11	11.1
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.	9	9.1
There is a shortage of people in the occupation.	9	9.1
Finding people that want to work. Not enough applications submitted.	8	8.1
No reported difficulty in filling vacancy.	5	5.1
Turnover—keeping people once they have been hired is the biggest problem.	5	5.1
Applicants availability or location of job (may not have housing and/or transportation).	5	5.1
Qualified applicants will not work for the compensation package we offer. Low paying job and/or competitive rates based on supply and demand.	4	4.0
Finding people to pass a drug test or background check (such as driving record or credit check) or pre-employment testing and screening.	3	3.0
Some other difficulty mentioned.	0	0.0
Total Responding to the Open-ended Question	99	100%

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 RLMA's can be found on the Louisiana Department of Labor's Web site: 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 3 (RLMA 3) is made up of Assumption, Lafourche, and Terrebonne parishes.

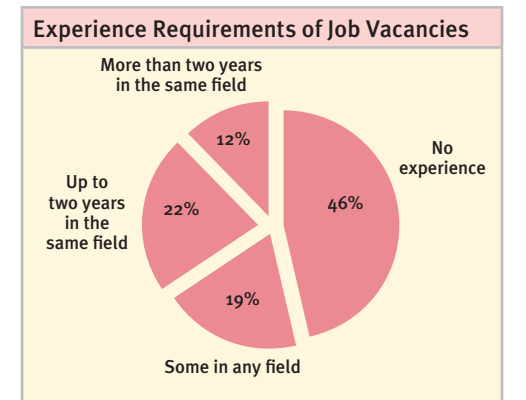
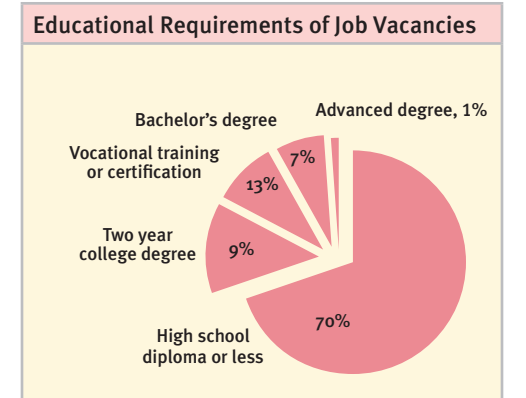
There were approximately 5,000 job vacancies in RLMA 3 during the 2nd quarter 2007 resulting in a vacancy rate of 5.7 percent. This means that for every 100 jobs, about 6 jobs were vacant. The number of job vacancies increased by approximately 1,200 from the 2nd quarter of 2006, a 30 percent increase.

Among the occupational groups, Architecture and Engineering had the highest vacancy rate (19 percent), and Production had the highest number of vacancies (921). Among the industry groups, Information had the highest vacancy rate (30 percent), and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities had the highest number of vacancies (2,139).

Overall, RLMA 3 employers were seeking employees with experience in 54 percent of the job vacancies. The number of job vacancies requiring a high school diploma or less was 70 percent of all vacancies. Approximately 30 percent of the job vacancies required training past high school with 22 percent requiring vocational training, certificate, or two year college degree.

For jobs paying \$5.15 or less, there were only 80 vacancies. However, for jobs paying \$5.15–\$7.00 there were more than 1,500 vacancies; for \$7.01–\$10.00 there were more than 1,550 vacancies; for \$10.01–\$13.00 there were more than 700 vacancies; for \$13.01–\$16.00 there were just fewer than 500 vacancies; and for job vacancies over \$16.00 per hour there were slightly less than 800 vacancies.

The number of job vacancies in RLMA 3 for 2007 was approximately 1.3 times the number of vacancies in 2006. Job vacancies in RLMA 3 accounted for only 5 percent of all vacancies in the state.



Industry Group	Number of Job Vacancies	Industry Employment ¹	Median Hourly Wage	Vacancy Rate, Percent		
				2007Q2	2006Q2	2005Q2
Trade,Transportaion, & Utilities	2,139	25,058	\$7.20	8.5%	3.7%	2.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	728	7,881	7.00	9.2	2.9	3.1
Manufacturing	559	11,841	15.00	4.7	5.5	4.5
Professional & Business Services	533	9,724	8.50	5.5	9.1	2.7
Financial Activities	357	5,940	11.84	6.0	2.6	2.8
Education & Health Services	326	18,656	8.00	1.7	2.6	1.1
Information	261	863	10.00	30.2	0.6	1.3
Construction	202	6,319	18.50	3.2	6.8	2.7
Public Administration	40	3,023	13.70	1.3	6.6	5.9
Natural Resources & Mining	32	7,669	10.00	0.4	1.2	1.0
Other Services	0	2,846	NA	0.0	7.4	5.3
Unclassified	NA	60	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total	5,176	99,880	\$8.28	5.2%	4.3%	2.5%

¹ 2007 Q2

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

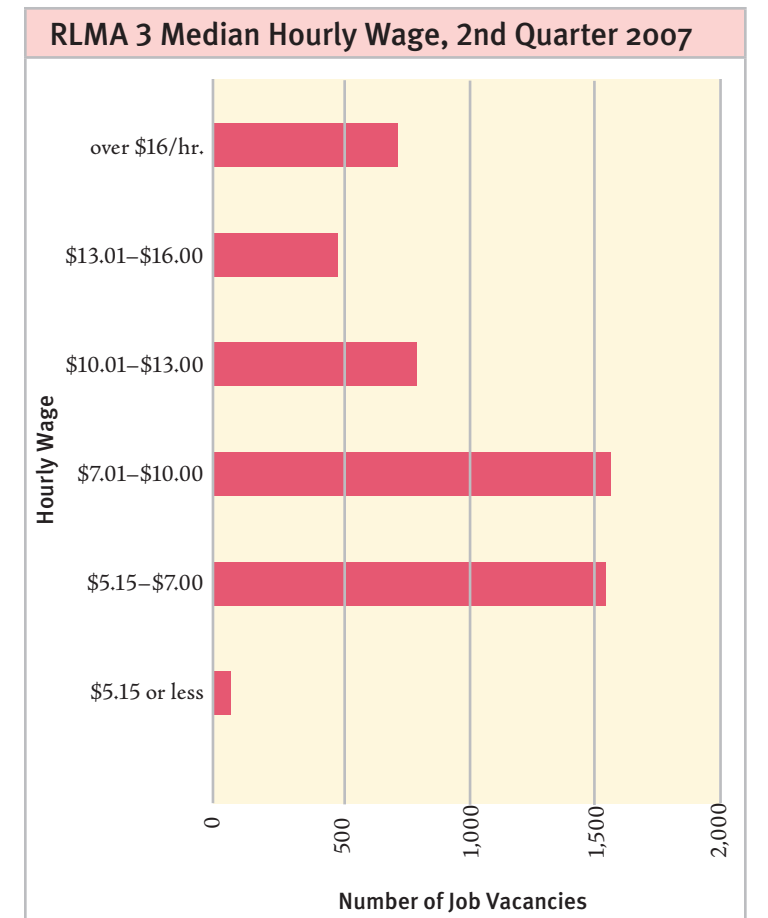
Houma Regional (RLMA 3)

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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		
							2007Q2	2006Q2	2005Q2
							Architecture & Engineering	172	890
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	28	350	92.9	100	30	10.00	8.1	25.1	0.0
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	19	2,230	0.0	0.0	7	5.57	0.9	5.8	0.3
Business & Financial Operations	60	1,880	21.7	100	120	NA	3.2	0.6	0.2
Community & Social Services	4	1,010	0.0	0.0	150	9.40	0.4	0.0	1.7
Computer & Mathematical Science	0	330	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	21.8	1.2
Construction & Extraction	336	6,900	66.4	2.1	105	12.00	4.9	8.4	1.7
Education, Training & Library	28	4,990	100	100	270	15.38	0.6	2.5	0.2
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	0	170	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	12.5	0.0
Food Preparation & Serving Related	491	6,510	31.4	0.0	180	7.00	7.5	5.9	5.0
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	375	4,010	90.7	99.7	90	14.50	9.4	2.2	1.2
Healthcare Support	112	2,070	0.0	68.8	75	8.00	5.4	3.7	2.5
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	378	5,140	67.6	24.5	90	12.01	7.4	6.7	1.6
Legal	0	210	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	28.3	15.7
Life, Physical & Social Science	32	180	0.0	0.0	5	8.00	17.5	0.0	0.0
Management	21	4,630	100	23.4	30	19.72	0.5	0.0	0.6
Military	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Non-Classifiable Occupations	323	NA	0.0	100	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Office & Administrative Support	630	12,320	27.4	9.1	60	8.00	5.1	1.8	1.9
Personal Care & Service	89	1,730	0.0	0.0	14	7.00	5.1	16.6	3.2
Production	921	8,990	73.8	25.8	90	10.38	10.2	7.7	5.2
Protective Service	63	1,380	0.0	0.0	0	7.50	4.6	21.6	0.8
Sales & Related	617	9,270	47.1	9.2	105	6.15	6.7	2.8	2.9
Transportation & Material Moving	476	15,290	47.4	4.0	120	12.98	3.1	2.4	4.7
Total	5,176	90,480	53.6%	30.4%	60	\$8.28	5.7%	4.5%	2.6%

Top 10 Job Openings	
Title	Vacancies
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	404
Cashiers	297
Meat, Poultry, & Fish Cutters & Trimmers	248
Sailors & Marine Oilers	246
Electricians	201
Retail Salespersons	153
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	138
Engine & Other Machine Assemblers	136
Telecommunications Equipment Installers & Repairers	123
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	118



NA: Not Available