

# Lafayette Regional (RLMA 4) 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.	83	24.5%
We have been unable to find applicants with the specific experience, training, skills and/or certification that we are seeking.	57	16.8
We have been unable to find qualified applicants and/or applicants with experience.	44	13.0
No reported difficulty in filling vacancy.	34	10.0
There is a shortage of people in the occupation.	26	7.7
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.	24	7.1
Qualified applicants will not work for the compensation package we offer. Low paying job and/or competitive rates based on supply and demand.	21	6.2
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.)	19	5.6
Some other difficulty mentioned.	15	4.4
Turnover—keeping people once they have been hired is the biggest problem.	8	2.4
Finding people to pass a drug test or background check (such as driving record or credit check) or pre-employment testing and screening.	8	2.4
<b>Total Responding to the Open-ended Question</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>100.0%</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 & 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](http://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. RLMA 4 is made up of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Vermilion parishes.

There were approximately 18,900 job vacancies in RLMA 4 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2006 resulting in a vacancy rate of 7.2 percent. This means that for every 100 jobs, approximately 7 jobs were vacant. The number of job vacancies increased by approximately 11,500 over 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2005, a 154 percent increase. The largest number of job vacancies was found in Construction and Extraction (approximately 3,000) while the largest vacancy rate (29.2 percent) was found in Farming, Fishing and Forestry.

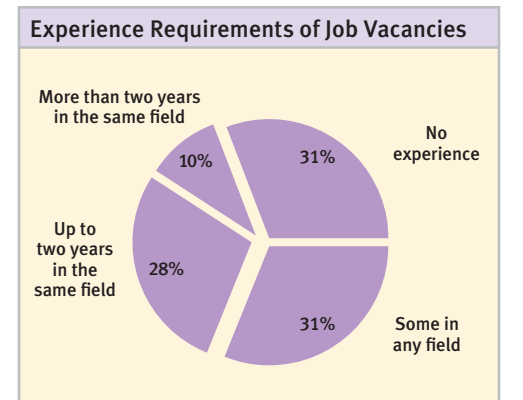
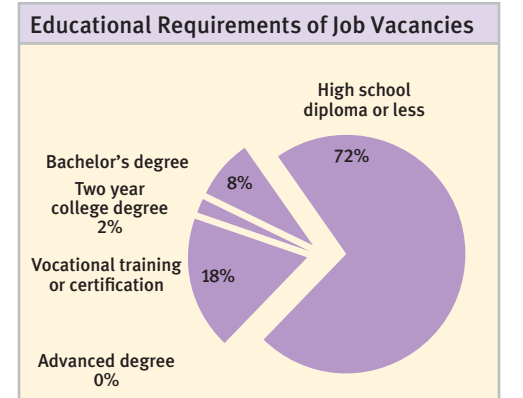
Education and Health Services had the largest number of job vacancies (approximately 3,800) when looking at the results by Industry Group (table below). The highest vacancy rate of 18.7 percent was found in the Other

Services group. Other Services consist of repair and maintenance, personal and laundry services, membership associations and organizations, and private households.

Overall, RLMA 4 employers were seeking employees with experience in 69 percent of the job vacancies. The number of job vacancies requiring high school diploma or less increased by approximately 175 percent over 2005 JVS results. Approximately 30 percent of the job vacancies required training past high school with 20 percent requiring vocational training, certificate, or two year college degree.

For job vacancies paying \$5.15 or less, there were 57 percent more in 2006 than in 2005. However, for jobs paying \$5.15–\$7.00 there were 126 percent more vacancies; \$7.01–\$10.00 there were 206 percent more vacancies; for \$10.01–\$13.00 there were 141 percent more job vacancies; for \$13.01–\$16.00 there were 259 percent more job vacancies; and for job vacancies over \$16.00 per hour there were 134 percent more vacancies.

The number of job vacancies for 2006 was approximately 2.5 times more than the number in 2005. Approximately one-sixth (15 percent) of the job vacancies for the state were found in RLMA 4.



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
Education & Health Services	3,781	54,213	55,583	2.1%	6.8%	\$11.55	\$7.50
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	3,180	55,902	58,303	1.7	5.5	7.38	8.00
Professional & Business Services	2,270	21,941	24,316	2.2	9.3	7.25	8.00
Construction	1,956	16,057	17,581	6.3	11.1	10.00	12.00
Manufacturing	1,862	20,936	22,894	1.8	8.1	7.72	12.00
Unclassified	1,395	209	225	NA	NA	NA	7.50
Other Services	1,219	6,138	6,535	5.6	18.7	NA	15.00
Leisure & Hospitality	1,065	24,030	25,545	4.4	4.2	5.30	5.50
Natural Resources & Mining	939	21,380	23,015	6.6	4.1	14.00	11.94
Public Administration	707	8,318	8,299	2.5	8.5	8.17	13.30
Financial Activities	514	14,317	15,324	2.9	3.4	10.75	9.00
Information	6	4,613	4,574	0.7	0.1	19.23	12.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,894</b>	<b>248,054</b>	<b>262,194</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>\$9.26</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>

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

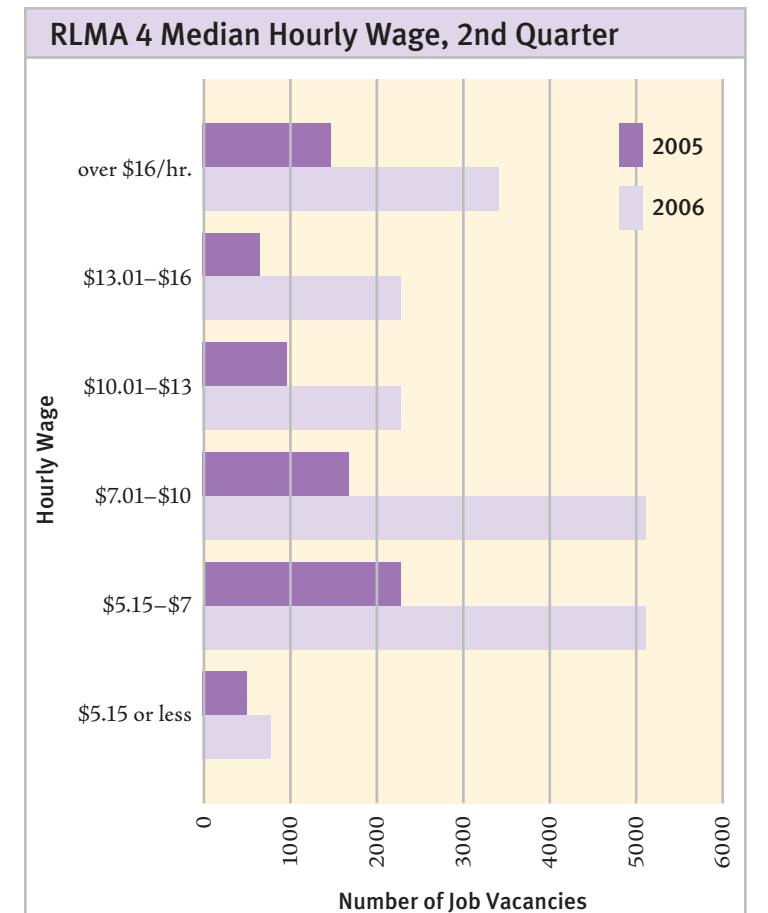
# Lafayette Regional (RLMA 4)

## 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	204	4,680	79.4%	58.0%	180	\$11.91	\$14.00	2.1%	4.4%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	0	1,410	0.0	0.0	0	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.0
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	461	6,470	40.8	NA	14	6.17	6.22	3.4	7.1
Business & Financial Operations	470	5,440	60.2	84.3	30	12.50	14.42	5.0	8.6
Community & Social Services	401	2,830	85.3	59.1	60	5.71	9.50	0.2	14.2
Computer & Mathematical Science	132	1,150	71.9	71.9	45	26.44	15.22	0.9	11.5
Construction & Extraction	2,993	17,880	75.9	11.4	30	12.27	8.50	8.1	16.7
Education, Training & Library	285	12,960	71.3	28.7	60	NA	7.00	0.2	2.2
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	105	360	52.4	NA	NA	7.00	6.00	8.8	29.2
Food Preparation & Serving Related	849	19,250	28.4	NA	30	5.65	5.46	2.9	4.4
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	1,189	14,200	75.3	96.4	7	14.75	10.40	3.9	8.4
Healthcare Support	244	7,350	44.1	64.1	30	6.80	6.40	4.0	3.3
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	1,981	15,550	90.7	15.1	90	9.00	18.00	5.7	12.7
Legal	77	2,010	94.8	1.3	1	NA	12.00	0.0	3.8
Life, Physical & Social Science	65	1,430	65.8	65.8	60	15.50	NA	3.0	4.5
Management	18	11,590	94.3	82.9	40.5	15.69	20.00	1.0	0.2
Non-classifiable Occupations	205	NA	63.8	53.6	13	10.00	8.00	NA	NA
Office & Administrative Support	1,612	41,030	60.8	41.7	21	7.73	8.00	2.3	3.9
Personal Care & Service	1,147	5,220	31.7	47.9	7	6.00	6.00	2.4	22.0
Production	2,713	22,100	83.4	14.0	60	8.75	14.50	2.1	12.3
Protective Service	262	4,180	85.1	20.9	21	7.00	8.00	0.6	6.3
Sales & Related	1,217	27,440	16.7	NA	30	5.85	6.00	1.4	4.4
Transportation & Material Moving	2,265	22,130	77.5	23.7	90	8.50	11.00	4.1	10.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,894</b>	<b>246,660</b>	<b>68.7%</b>	<b>28.2%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>\$9.55</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>

Top 10 Job Openings	
Title	Vacancies
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	981
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	843
Construction Laborers	833
Personal & Home Care Aides	767
Retail Salespersons	645
Helpers—Extraction Workers	643
Assemblers & Fabricators, <i>all other</i>	600
Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, <i>except engines</i>	496
Customer Service Representatives	491
Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	465



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

Revised November 2007