

Lafayette Regional (RLMA 4) 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.	63	22.7%
Finding people that want to work. Not enough applications submitted.	26	9.4
We have been unable to find applicants with the specific experience, training, skills and/or certification that we are seeking.	26	9.4
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.)	25	9.0
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.	25	9.0
Applicants availability or location of job (may not have housing and/or transportation).	24	8.7
No reported difficulty in filling vacancy.	20	7.2
Finding people to pass a drug test or background check (such as driving record or credit check) or pre-employment testing and screening.	20	7.2
Qualified applicants will not work for the compensation package we offer. Low paying job and/or competitive rates based on supply and demand.	14	5.1
Some other difficulty mentioned.	13	4.7
There is a shortage of people in the occupation.	11	4.0
Turnover—keeping people once they have been hired is the biggest problem.	10	3.6
Total Responding to the Open-ended Question	277	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 RLMAs 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 4 (RLMA 4) is made up of Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Vermilion parishes.

There were approximately 15,000 job vacancies in RLMA 4 during the 2nd quarter 2007 resulting in a vacancy rate of 5.9 percent. This means that for every 100 jobs, about 6 jobs were vacant. The number of job vacancies decreased by approximately 3,600 from the 2nd quarter of 2006, a 19 percent decrease.

Among the occupational groups, Protective Service had the highest vacancy rate (23 percent), and Healthcare Practitioner and Technical had the highest number of vacancies (2,377). Among the industry groups, Public Administration had the highest vacancy rate (20.6 percent), and Professional and Business Services had the highest number of vacancies (3,535).

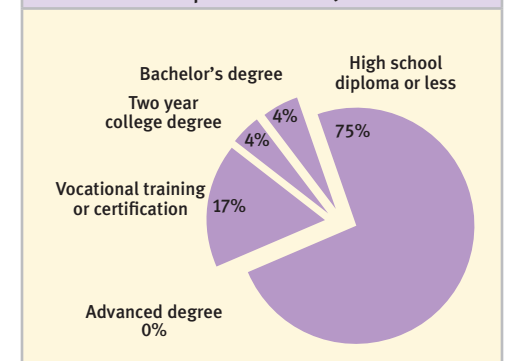
Overall, RLMA 4 employers were seeking

employees with experience in 56 percent of the job vacancies. The number of job vacancies requiring a high school diploma or less was 75 percent of all vacancies. About 25 percent of the job vacancies required training past high school with 21 percent requiring vocational training, certificate, or two year college degree.

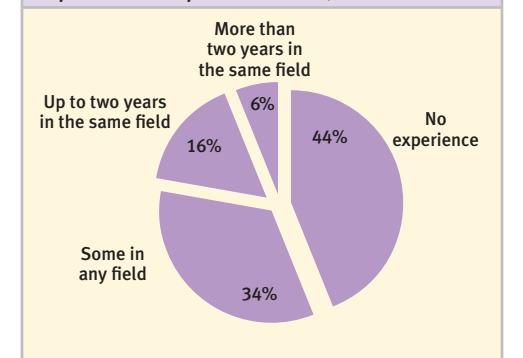
For jobs paying \$5.15 or less, there were slightly more than 1,600 vacancies. However, for jobs paying \$5.15–\$7.00 there were almost 6,300 vacancies; for \$7.01–\$10.00 there were more than 2,000 vacancies; for \$10.01–\$13.00 there were more than 2,600 vacancies; for \$13.01–\$16.00 there were almost 1,000 vacancies; and for job vacancies over \$16.00 per hour there were slightly more than 1,600 vacancies.

The number of job vacancies in RLMA 4 for 2007 was approximately four-fifths of the number of vacancies in 2006. Job vacancies in RLMA 4 accounted for 16 percent of all vacancies in the state.

Educational Requirements of Job Vacancies



Experience Requirements of Job Vacancies



Industry Group	Number of Job Vacancies	Industry Employment ¹	Median Hourly Wage	Vacancy Rate, Percent		
				2007Q2	2006Q2	2005Q2
Professional & Business Services	3,535	26,069	\$12.15	13.6%	9.3%	2.2%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	3,228	58,752	9.38	5.5	5.5	1.7
Education & Health Services	2,221	57,456	10.00	3.9	6.8	2.1
Public Administration	1,760	8,557	11.19	20.6	8.5	2.5
Leisure & Hospitality	1,257	25,620	6.50	4.9	4.2	4.4
Manufacturing	1,208	24,347	12.00	5.0	8.1	1.8
Natural Resources & Mining	824	24,749	18.25	3.3	4.1	6.6
Information	441	4,706	7.29	9.4	0.1	0.7
Financial Activities	331	15,446	6.50	2.1	3.4	2.9
Construction	290	17,615	11.50	1.6	11.1	6.3
Other Services	198	6,599	10.00	3.0	18.7	5.6
Unclassified	NA	297	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total	15,293	270,213	\$7.00	5.7%	7.2%	3.0%

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

Lafayette Regional (RLMA 4)

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	162	5,080	79.4%	64.6%	97	\$16.83	3.2%	4.4%	2.1%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	178	1,520	30.7	30.7	30	NA	11.7	0.0	0.0
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	1,226	6,720	90.7	0.0	240	6.34	18.2	7.1	3.4
Business & Financial Operations	185	5,930	100	43.7	18	20.29	3.1	8.6	5.0
Community & Social Services	257	2,810	25.8	25.8	21	13.94	9.1	14.2	0.2
Computer & Mathematical Science	64	1,410	0.0	0.0	180	11.00	4.5	11.5	0.9
Construction & Extraction	1,149	18,520	42.0	5.2	22	12.00	6.2	16.7	8.1
Education, Training & Library	117	13,420	81.2	18.8	7	5.50	0.9	2.2	0.2
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	5	460	0.0	0.0	90	10.00	1.1	29.2	8.8
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,248	20,340	35.1	16.1	21	6.00	6.1	4.4	2.9
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	2,377	14,430	18.6	35.6	28	12.00	16.5	8.4	3.9
Healthcare Support	320	7,140	72.8	71.7	53	6.65	4.5	3.3	4.0
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	1,178	16,210	95.5	62.9	30	12.50	7.3	12.7	5.7
Legal	0	1,690	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	3.8	0.0
Life, Physical & Social Science	92	1,590	100	100	49	22.31	5.8	4.5	3.0
Management	189	12,690	100	70.2	60	12.82	1.5	0.2	1.0
Military	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Non-Classifiable Occupations	45	NA	100	4.4	14	20.00	NA	NA	NA
Office & Administrative Support	1,253	42,600	49.2	39.4	28	8.72	2.9	3.9	2.3
Personal Care & Service	364	5,820	58.7	19.4	14	6.65	6.2	22.0	2.4
Production	1,364	23,460	50.6	10.8	21	14.00	5.8	12.3	2.1
Protective Service	1,018	4,480	47.3	8.1	120	11.19	22.7	6.3	0.6
Sales & Related	1,343	28,450	59.5	13.4	28	6.79	4.7	4.4	1.4
Transportation & Material Moving	1,158	24,750	82.5	22.5	90	11.25	4.7	10.2	4.1
Total	15,293	259,520	56.0%	25.4%	30	\$7.00	5.9%	7.7%	3.1%

NA: Not Available

Top 10 Job Openings	
Title	Vacancies
Landscaping & Groundskeeping Workers	1,182
Retail Salespersons	720
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	648
Construction & Building Inspectors	526
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	461
Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics	416
Security Guards	381
Customer Service Representatives	364
Truck Drivers, Light or Delivery Services	358
Riggers	354

