

# Lake Charles Regional (RLMA 5) 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.	24	22.4%
Finding people that want to work. Not enough applications submitted.	17	15.9
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.)	13	12.1
We have been unable to find applicants with the specific experience, training, skills and/or certification that we are seeking.	12	11.2
No reported difficulty in filling vacancy.	12	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	8.4
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	5.6
There is a shortage of people in the occupation.	6	5.6
Turnover—keeping people once they have been hired is the biggest problem.	3	2.8
Applicants availability or location of job (may not have housing and/or transportation).	3	2.8
Some other difficulty mentioned.	1	0.9
Finding people to pass a drug test or background check (such as driving record or credit check) or pre-employment testing and screening.	1	0.9
<b>Total Responding to the Open-ended Question</b>	<b>107</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 and assist educational units, employment and training providers, and local workforce councils in responding to industry needs. Regional Labor Market Area 5 (RLMA 5) is made up of Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis parishes.

There were approximately 6,000 job vacancies in RLMA 5 during the 2nd quarter 2007 resulting in a vacancy rate of 5.5 percent. This means that for every 100 jobs, 5 ½ jobs were vacant. The number of job vacancies decreased by approximately 700 from the 2nd quarter of 2006, an 11 percent decrease.

Among the occupational groups, Transportation and Material Moving along with Food Preparation and Serving Related had the highest vacancy rate (13 percent), in addition Food Preparation and Serving Related had the highest number of vacancies (1,206). Among the industry groups, Other Services had the highest vacancy rate (22.6 percent), and Trade,

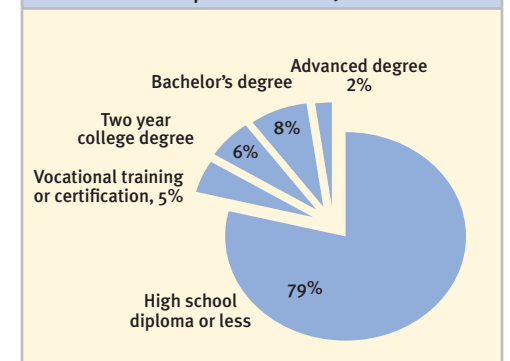
Transportation, and Utilities had the highest number of vacancies (1,871).

Overall, RLMA 5 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 79 percent of all vacancies. Less than 25 percent of the job vacancies required training past high school with 11 percent requiring vocational training, certificate, or two year college degree.

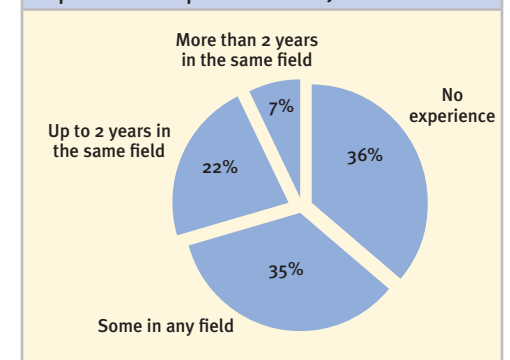
For jobs paying \$5.15 or less, there were just under 100 vacancies. However, for jobs paying \$5.15–\$7.00 there were almost 2,900 vacancies; for \$7.01–\$10.00 there were more than 1,100 vacancies; for \$10.01–\$13.00 there more than 500 vacancies; for \$13.01–\$16.00 there were more than 1,000 vacancies; and for job vacancies over \$16.00 per hour there were slightly more than 500 vacancies.

The number of job vacancies in RLMA 5 for 2007 was approximately nine-tenths of the number of vacancies in 2006. Job vacancies in RLMA 5 accounted for only 6 ½ 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 <sup>1</sup>	Median Hourly Wage	Vacancy Rate, Percent		
				2007Q2	2006Q2	2005Q2
Trade,Transportaion, & Utilities	1,871	23,188	\$6.50	8.1%	6.9%	2.6%
Leisure & Hospitality	1,482	16,504	7.00	9.0	12.0	5.7
Other Services	578	2,553	7.00	22.6	6.6	13.6
Education & Health Services	502	25,489	12.55	2.0	2.5	1.3
Financial Activities	460	4,536	27.50	10.1	2.5	8.4
Professional & Business Services	443	9,254	15.06	4.8	12.9	2.0
Public Administration	341	6,069	9.25	5.6	3.4	6.2
Manufacturing	285	11,337	30.05	2.5	2.9	2.1
Construction	142	13,164	8.00	1.1	3.1	1.1
Information	32	1,418	6.75	2.3	2.1	1.4
Natural Resources & Mining	19	2,490	16.00	0.8	17.9	2.5
Unclassified	NA	99	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,154</b>	<b>116,101</b>	<b>\$7.70</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>3.2%</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

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# Lake Charles Regional (RLMA 5)

## Job Vacancy Survey, 2007 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		
							2007Q2	2006Q2	2005Q2
Architecture & Engineering	12	1,480	51.6%	100%	0	NA	0.8%	1.1%	2.6%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	0	790	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	4.7	0.7
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	207	3,510	75.0	0.0	21	\$6.33	5.9	4.6	13.6
Business & Financial Operations	201	3,420	100	100	120	33.65	5.9	0.2	4.2
Community & Social Services	8	1,170	100	100	14	21.15	0.7	2.4	0.0
Computer & Mathematical Science	0	600	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0.6	0.6
Construction & Extraction	127	9,330	100	10.5	0	14.06	1.4	7.9	1.7
Education, Training & Library	30	6,130	3.3	96.7	14	15.73	0.5	2.2	1.0
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	0	200	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	10.5	0.0
Food Preparation & Serving Related	1,206	9,680	76.7	10.2	36	7.00	12.5	18.2	6.8
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	328	5,790	44.4	73.9	90	18.49	5.7	5.9	3.0
Healthcare Support	87	3,190	100	60.2	14	14.33	2.7	3.1	1.6
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	227	5,990	47.0	16.6	60	12.00	3.8	5.7	5.3
Legal	7	600	100	100	49	20.19	1.2	0.0	0.0
Life, Physical & Social Science	8	1,000	100	100	300	30.05	0.8	9.1	0.2
Management	70	4,850	100	88.5	90	14.42	1.4	0.1	3.4
Military	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Non-Classifiable Occupations	1	NA	0.0	100	7	6.75	NA	NA	NA
Office & Administrative Support	930	16,580	60.3	35.0	30	8.29	5.6	3.1	1.0
Personal Care & Service	391	3,830	75.9	2.0	14	7.25	10.2	5.6	7.3
Production	158	7,720	100	5.7	30	17.50	2.1	5.7	1.2
Protective Service	274	3,480	0.0	0.0	0	7.90	7.9	0.6	0.1
Sales & Related	749	12,580	39.2	3.2	26	6.35	6.0	7.6	3.9
Transportation & Material Moving	1,133	9,090	77.2	15.9	14	12.51	12.5	13.2	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,154</b>	<b>111,010</b>	<b>64.2%</b>	<b>21.3%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>\$7.70</b>	<b>5.5%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>

NA: Not Available

Top 10 Job Openings	
Title	Vacancies
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	700
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers <i>including Fast Food</i>	618
Retail Salespersons	392
Tellers	345
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	289
Managers of Food Preparation & Serving Workers	278
Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	235
Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	195
Accountants & Auditors	178
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	171

