



# High Paying Louisiana Job Vacancies:

A supplemental report to the  
2010 Job Vacancy Survey

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## Executive Summary

The Job Vacancy Survey is conducted annually in the state of Louisiana and provides unique insight into the current labor market conditions at the state level and within each regional labor market area (RLMA). In 2010, the job vacancy survey was conducted in the second quarter and included over 9,000 firms from the population of Louisiana businesses covered by unemployment insurance tax laws. While conducting this survey, information was collected on the wages those businesses offer for their vacant positions. Comparative analysis was performed on the data in order to discern the differences between vacancies for jobs paying \$30,000 or more per year (hereafter sometimes referred to as “high paying”) and the total job vacancies.

- Of the 30,181 estimated vacancies in Louisiana, 10,666 (35%) paid \$30,000 or more annually.
- 6,126 (57%) of these high paying vacancies could be found in the New Orleans (36%) or Baton Rouge (22%) RLMA. Lafayette and Shreveport RLMAs had 1,355 (13%) and 1,186 (11%) high paying jobs, respectively.
- Of vacancies paying less than \$30,000 annually, 79% required a high school diploma or less. For vacancies paying more than \$30,000, only 31% required a high school diploma.
- 34% of high paying vacancies required a two year degree or vocational training/certification and 35% required either a Bachelor’s (25%) or Advanced (10%) degree.
- The median response for experience required in all vacancies was “some work experience in any field,” while for high paying vacancies it was “up to two years of experience in the same field.”
- Among all vacancies, welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers and retail sales people were the top two occupations by number of vacancies. Among high paying vacancies, heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers and registered nurses were the top two.

## Regional Analysis

The 2010 job vacancy survey estimated that there were 30,181 vacancies in Louisiana in the second quarter. A summary of vacancies by region is presented in Table 1. Results show a very high density of job vacancies in the southern half of Louisiana, which accounts for nearly 75 percent of total job vacancies. Over 50 percent of all job vacancies in the state are located in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge regions, accounting for 28 and 27 percent of total vacancies respectively. Shreveport accounts for 15 percent of all job vacancies and the other five regions cumulatively account for the other 30 percent of job vacancies in the state.

**Table 1: Total Job Vacancies by Region**

RLMA	Number of Vacancies	Percent of Total	Median Hourly Wage (dollars)
New Orleans	8,489	28%	\$13.00
Baton Rouge	8,156	27	9.00
Houma	1,333	4	14.00
Lafayette	3,450	11	10.20
Lake Charles	1,337	4	8.16
Alexandria	1,170	4	12.43
Shreveport	4,418	15	9.00
Monroe	1,827	6	9.62
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>30,181</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$10.71</b>

Table 2 shows vacancies for jobs paying more than \$30,000 per year at the regional level. Similarly to total vacancies, high paying vacancies are highly concentrated in the southern regions. Thirty-six percent of job vacancies above \$30,000 are located in the New Orleans region, a considerably larger portion than the 28 percent of all vacancies reported above. The Lafayette area also accounts for a higher proportion of job vacancies over \$30,000 (13%) as compared to total job vacancies (11%).

**Table 2: Job Vacancies Paying over \$30,000 by Region**

<b>RLMA</b>	<b>Number of Vacancies</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
New Orleans	3,822	36
Baton Rouge	2,304	22
Houma	627	6
Lafayette	1,355	13
Lake Charles	209	2
Alexandria	416	4
Shreveport	1,186	11
Monroe	747	7
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>10,666</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Educational Requirements

When job vacancies are broken down by educational requirement in Table 3, the majority of job vacancies required a high school diploma or less. However, when only vacancies for jobs paying over \$30,000 are included, the percentage of vacancies requiring a high school diploma or less is much lower (31% vs. 63%). Conversely, vacancies requiring vocational training or certification and Bachelor's degree are most common among job vacancies paying over \$30,000 comprising 26 and 25 percent of vacancies respectively. For job vacancies paying over \$30,000, 35 percent require a bachelor's or advanced degree and 34 percent require vocational training or a two-year college degree. The remaining 31 percent require a high school diploma or less.

**Table 3: Education Requirement for Job Vacancies**

Education	Percent of Total Vacancies	Percent of High Paying Vacancies
High School diploma or less	63	31
Vocational training or certification	16	26
Two-year college degree	7	8
Bachelor's degree	10	25
Advanced degree	4	10
<b>Statewide (total reporting)</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Experience Requirement

In table 4 as expected, experience requirements for vacancies paying over \$30,000 per year are greater than those for vacancies in general. Among all vacancies: no experience is required for 26 percent of vacancies; some experience in any field is required for 28 percent; and up to two years of experience in the same field is required for 29 percent. Only 15 percent of all vacancies require more than two years of experience in the same field. In contrast, of the jobs paying more than \$30,000 annually 78 percent require at least some experience in the same field; 42 percent required up to two years while 36 percent required more than two years of experience in the same field. That leaves vacancies requiring no experience and some work experience in any field with 10 and 12 percent of the high paying vacancies, respectively.

**Table 4: Experience Requirement for Total Job Vacancies**

Experience	Percent of Total Vacancies	Percent of \$30,000+
No experience	27	10
Some experience in any field	28	12
Up to two years of experience in same field	29	42
More than two years of experience in same field	16	36
<b>Statewide (total reporting)</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Vacancies by Occupation

The breakdown of job vacancies by Standard Occupational Code (SOC), or occupational group, shows occupations with the most positions available. As table 5 shows, among all vacancies, welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers have the highest percentage of vacancies, accounting for 5 percent of openings. Retail salespeople; waiters and waitresses; personal and home care aides; and truck drivers — heavy and tractor-trailer are the other occupations with the largest percentage of total vacancies.

As Table 6 shows, when only jobs paying over \$30,000 are considered, truck drivers — heavy and tractor-trailer constitute the largest number of job vacancies with 7 percent, while registered nurses have the second highest number of vacancies with 6 percent. The vacancy reports for jobs paying over \$30,000 show a higher concentration of vacancies among the top three occupations which account for 16 percent (vs. 13% for all vacancies) and the top ten making up 35 percent (vs. 30% for all vacancies) of job vacancies.

**Table 5: Total Job Vacancies by Occupation**

Rank	Occupation	Percent of Total
1	Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	5
2	Retail Salespersons	4
3	Waiters & Waitresses	4
4	Personal & Home Care Aides	4
5	Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	3
6	Bartenders	2
7	Cashiers, except Gaming	2
8	Registered Nurses	2
9	Construction Laborers	2
10	Secretaries, except Legal, Medical & Executive	2
	All others	70
<b>Statewide</b>		<b>100%</b>

**Table 6: Job Vacancies Paying Over \$30,000 by Occupation**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
1	Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	7
2	Registered Nurses	6
3	Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	4
4	Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	3
5	Construction Laborers	3
6	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	3
7	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	2
8	Retail Salespersons	2
9	Nursing Assistants	2
10	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers & Weighers	2
	All others	66
<b>Statewide</b>		<b>100%</b>

## Occupational Groupings

The Occupational Grouping analysis of job vacancies shows that there are high numbers of vacancies in the food preparation and service field, which accounts for 11 percent of all job vacancies. For vacancies paying more than \$30,000 annually, the largest group was healthcare practitioner and technical field which accounted for 17 percent of those job vacancies. A similar distribution can be found in tables 7 and 8 for both vacancy groups. There is a higher concentration of vacancies among the top three groups for jobs paying over \$30,000 relative to all vacancies. The top three groups with job vacancies paying more than \$30,000 annually captured 38 percent of those vacancies while the top three for total vacancies account for 33 percent of job vacancies.

**Table 7: Total Job Vacancies by Occupational Group**

Rank	Occupation	Percent of Total
1	Food Preparation & Serving Related	11
2	Office & Administrative Support	11
3	Production	11
4	Sales and Related	9
5	Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	8
6	Personal Care & Service	6
7	Transportation & Material Moving	6
8	Installation, Maintenance & Repair	6
9	Construction & Extraction	6
10	Healthcare Support	4
	All others	21
<b>Statewide</b>		<b>100%</b>

**Table 8: Job Vacancies Paying over \$30,000 by Occupational Group**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
1	Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	17
2	Production	12
3	Installation, Maintenance & Repair	9
4	Transportation & Material Moving	8
5	Construction & Extraction	8
6	Education, Training & Library	6
7	Management	6
8	Office & Administrative Support	6
9	Sales & Related	5
10	Architecture & Engineering	4
	All others	20
<b>Statewide</b>		<b>100%</b>

## NAICS Supersector

Analysis of total job vacancy data by industry supersector indicates that total job vacancies are concentrated in the supersectors of Education and Health; Trade, Transportation and Utilities; and Leisure and Hospitality, accounting for 54 percent of all job vacancies. Professional and Business services accounts for 12 percent of total job vacancies and Other Services makes up 8 percent. Data for jobs paying over \$30,000 also shows a high concentration of vacancies in the Educational and Health Services industry supersector, with 28 percent. Although the Leisure and Hospitality supersector reported 14 percent of total job vacancies, that sector is not represented in the top five vacancies list for jobs paying over \$30,000. The vacancy data for jobs paying more than \$30,000 reveals a higher concentration of vacancies in the top supersector, and 59 percent coming from the top three industry supersectors.

**Table 9: Total Job Vacancies by Industry Supersectors**

Rank	Industry Supersectors	Percent of Total
1	Educational & Health Services	23
2	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	17
3	Leisure & Hospitality	14
4	Professional & Business Services	12
5	Other Services	8
	All others	26
<b>Statewide</b>		<b>100%</b>

**Table 10: Vacancies for Jobs paying more than \$30,000 by Industry Supersectors**

Rank	Industry Supersectors	Percent of Total
1	Educational & Health Services	28
2	Trade, Transportation & Utilities	17
3	Construction	14
4	Professional & Business Services	13
5	Manufacturing	9
	All others	19
<b>Statewide</b>		<b>100%</b>