Utah Department of Workforce Services

JOB 2012 vacancystudy

Fourth Quarter 2012

A profile of job openings in Utah

The Job Vacancy Study gauges the characteristics of the current demand for labor in Utah.

REGIONS:

STATEWIDE 1

METROPOLITAN 4

NON-METROPOLITAN 9

NORTHERN 12

SOUTHWESTERN 16

UINTAH BASIN 19

STATEWIDE

The Job Vacancy Study (JVS) helps job seekers identify occupations in demand and assists employers in understanding the labor needs of the entire business community. 4,700 Utah employers across five geographic areas were surveyed during the fourth quarter of 2012 to identify occupational openings, vacancy rates and hourly wages.

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

Job openings reflect both employment growth and the need to replace employees who have left the job. While several counties returned to moderate expansion during 2012, most did not. A number continued to shed jobs even in the midst of the national recovery, although seasonal employment turnover occurred during this survey period. Nevertheless, replacement needs and industry growth created a notable number of job opportunities across Utah.

During fourth quarter of 2012, the Utah economy produced 2.8 vacancies for every 100 jobs. A 2.8 percent vacancy rate among surveyed establishments translated to approximately 34,800 job openings statewide at any given time in the fourth quarter.

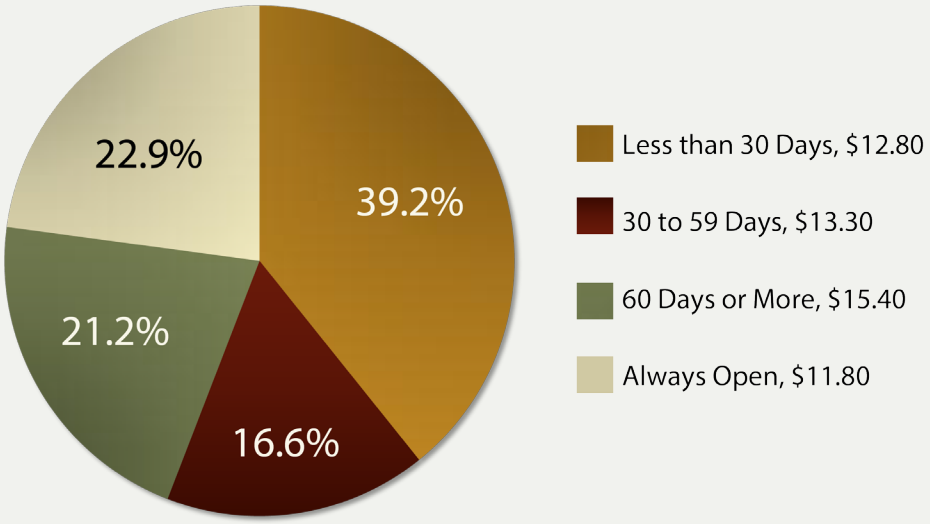
While industry classifications represent where people work, occupational clas-

Area	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Offered Wage
Statewide	34,750	2.8%	$13.20

jobs.utah.gov

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Statewide Percent of Openings and Average Offered Wages by Length of Time Open



sifications represent what people do. As you would expect, large industries generally create more openings than small industries and large occupational groups typically generate more openings than small occupational groups. JVS survey openings reflected the industrial/occupational structure among Utah counties.

Statewide, registered nurses topped the list of vacancies for occupations requiring a bachelor's or advanced degree, while electricians had the largest number of vacancies for occupations requiring an associate degree or applied technology training.

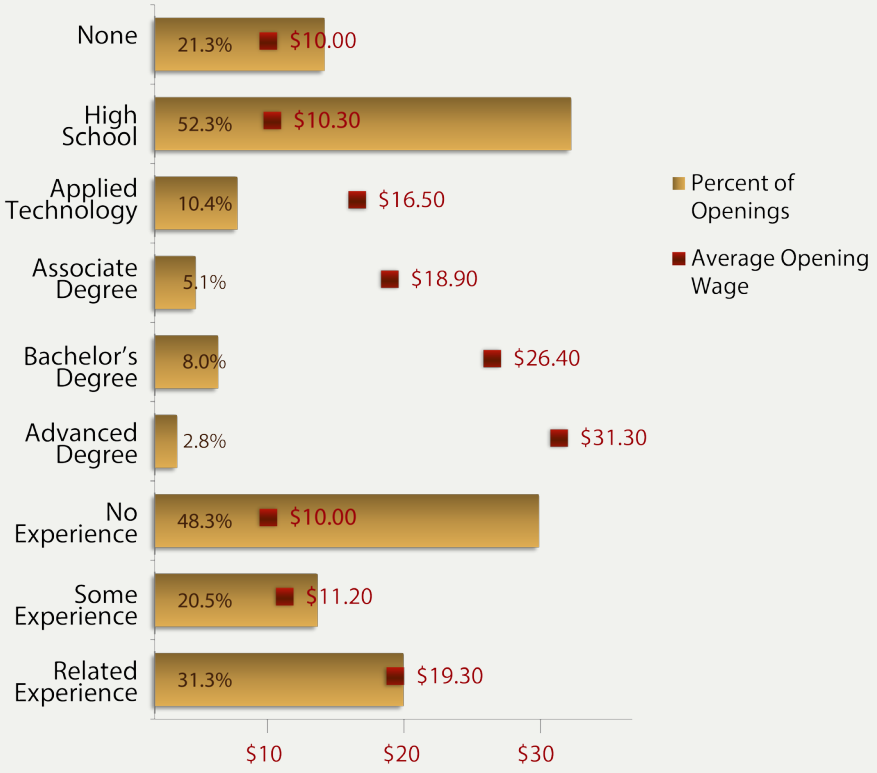
The industry with the most job vacancies statewide was trade, transportation and utilities. This sector offered an average wage of $10.90 per hour, about 18 percent lower than the average for all sectors. Vacancies in educational and health services offered an average opening wage of $17.60 per hour, the highest of all sectors. The financial activities sector followed closely behind, offering an average wage of $17.20 per hour.

56 percent of job vacancies were open for less than 60 days and offered lower average wages than jobs open 60 or more days. More than one-fifth of vacancies open 60 or more days required either an associate or a bachelor's degree, a much higher proportion than the requirements for vacancies open less than 60 days.

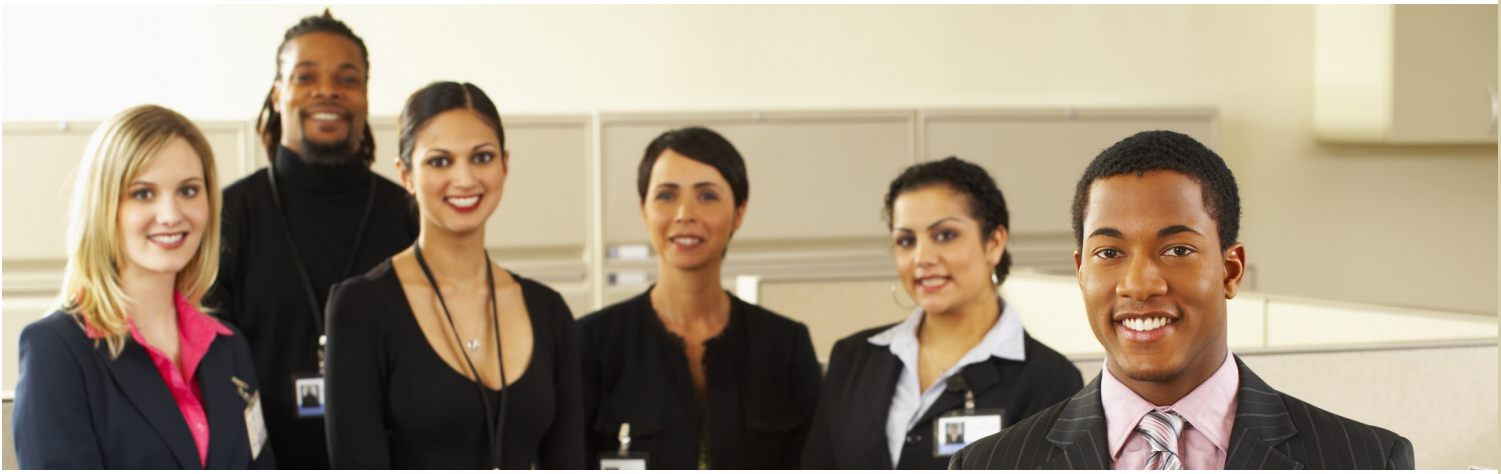
The statewide job vacancies offered an average wage of $13.20 per hour, although wages offered for any individual opening varied based on the position requirements.

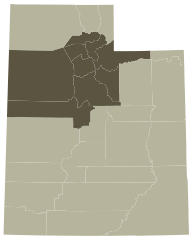
On average, the majority of job vacancies required high school educational attainment and no experience. As the level of required educational attainment and experience increased, average offered wages followed suit. Predictably, the highest average offered wages were for advanced degrees at $31.30 per hour. The lowest average offered wage was for no educational prerequisite at $10.00 per hour. Almost one-third of job vacancies required related experience and offered higher average wages than vacancies that required some or no experience.

Statewide Education Requested by Employers and Average Offered Wage



During fourth quarter of 2012, the Utah economy produced 2.8 vacancies for every 100 jobs. A 2.8 percent vacancy rate among surveyed establishments translated to approximately 34,800 job openings statewide at any given time in the fourth quarter.





METROPOLITAN REGION SUMMARY

The JVS Metropolitan Region is comprised of Davis, Juab, Morgan, Salt Lake, Summit, Tooele, Utah, Wasatch and Weber counties. This region accounts for more than 80 percent of Utah's labor market activity. Because the state derives much of its vacancies from this region, we expected the job vacancy profile of the Metropolitan Region to be very similar to the statewide profile.

The 3.0 percent vacancy rate in the Metropolitan Region was the highest of the sub-state regions and openings in the metro region were most likely to be of full-time, permanent status.

Area	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Offered Wage
Metropolitan Utah	30,950	3.0%	$13.20
Statewide	34,750	2.8%	$13.20

The average offered wage for job openings surveyed was $13.20 per hour, equivalent to the statewide average.

Vacancies open for less than 60 days were 56 percent of all vacancies and on average offered lower wages than jobs open 60 or more days

The majority of openings in Metropolitan Utah required high school educational attainment but did not require work experience. Openings that did ask for higher education and more experience offered higher wages.

The Metropolitan Region job openings were filled quickly with nearly 40 percent open for less than 30 days. While the rising job growth and decreasing unemployment held true in the fourth quarter of 2012, a short opening duration provided some evidence that competition for existing vacancies remained high among job seekers.

METROPOLITAN REGION INDUSTRIES

One-fourth of openings were in the trade, transportation and utilities sector, the largest share for any sectors. The education and health services, professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality industries all had high volumes of vacancies. Together, these four sectors accounted for 75 percent of surveyed openings.

The lowest volume of openings in the Metro region was in government, and natural resources and mining. These sectors each added less than 1 percent of all openings.

The sector with the highest average offered wage was education and health services ($18.00 per hour). Following closely were the financial activities and manufacturing sectors, offering $17.90 and $17.00 per hour respectively.

The lowest average offered wages were for openings in leisure and hospitality ($8.80 per hour) and trade, transportation, and utilities ($10.70 per hour).

METROPOLITAN MAJOR OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS

Sales occupations and office occupations ranked one and two, respectively, in terms of total number of openings. Occupations such as cashiers, retail salespersons, telemarketers and customer service representatives accounted for the bulk of these vacancies.

Highest average offered wages were reported for vacancies in management occupations at $30.90 per hour, followed by computer and mathematical occupations at $28.70 per hour. The lowest average offered wages were for vacancies in personal care and service occupations.

The highest vacancy rate was for community and social services occupations which offered an average opening wage of $10.00 per hour.

OCCUPATIONS WITH THE MOST OPENINGS

The ten occupations with the most openings constituted half of all openings in the Metropolitan Region. Most of the vacancies were sales-related occupations.

Openings for retail salespersons, cashiers, and customer service representatives topped the list during the fourth quarter of 2012. The average opening wage for these occupations was $10.20 per hour.

The average opening wage for the occupations with the most openings was $11.60 per hour. Vacancies for registered nurses offered the highest average wage at $23.90 per hour, more than twice the regional average. The lowest offered wage was for amusement and recreation attendants, which offered an average of $7.90 per hour.

OCCUPATIONS WITH THE HIGHEST VACANCY RATES

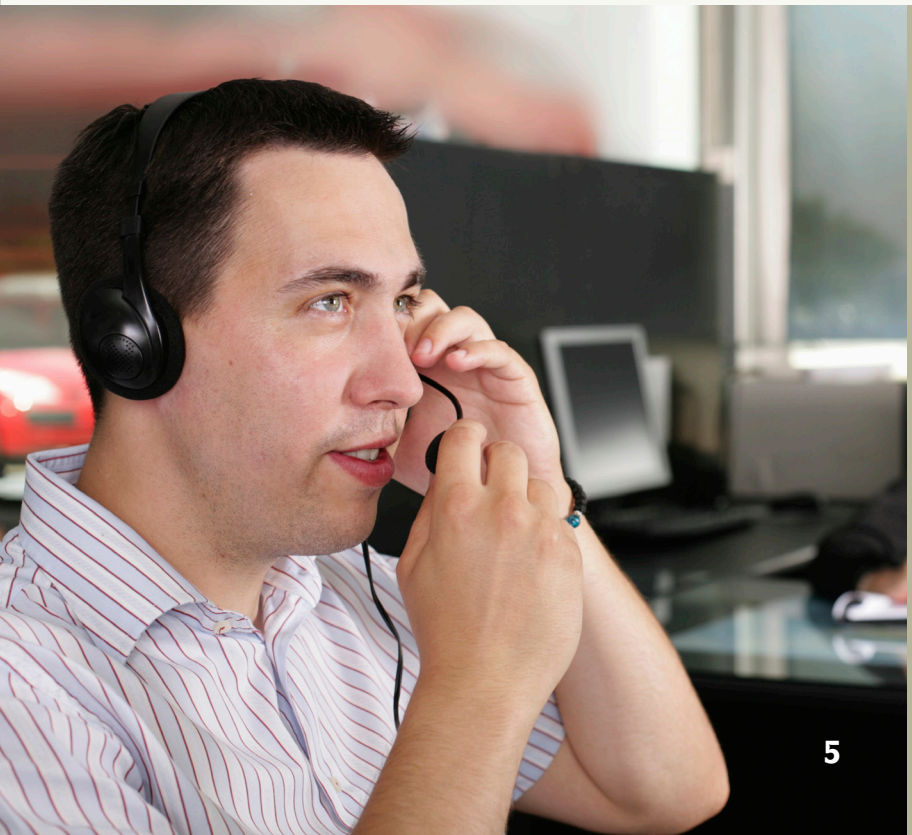
A high occupational vacancy rate signifies a strong demand for an occupation relative to the total employment within that occupation. High job vacancy rates are usually found in occupations with low employment totals (where a small number of openings produce a high vacancy rate) or in occupations that experience a high amount of churn.

On average, the reported wage for occupations with high vacancy rates in the Metro region was $12.00 per hour, 9 percent lower than the average wage for all occupations.

The high-vacancy occupation with the highest average offered wage was electricians. During this period, there were 1,070 vacancies which paid an average opening wage of $19.10.

TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS REQUIRING AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE OR APPLIED TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

Openings for occupations such as truck drivers, registered nurses, medical assistants, and electricians frequently require a certificate or license and an associate or applied technology degree. Electricians topped the list of openings in this category. The vacancies that required an associate degree or applied technology trainging reported an average opening wage of $19.50 per hour.



Sales occupations and office occupations ranked one and two, respectively, in terms of total number of openings.

One-half of the top occupational openings requiring an associate degree or applied technology training were health care-related.

TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS REQUIRING A BACHELOR'S OR ADVANCED DEGREE

Four percent of job vacancies in the Metro region required a bachelor's degree or advanced degree. The average offered wage for the top 10 occupations by openings was $24.10 per hour, $10.90 more than the average offered wage for all occupational vacancies.

While the average opening wages for most occupations in this category tended to be relatively high, there were exceptions. Preschool teachers were offered $10.00 per hour on average, the lowest wage for this category and lower than the average offered wage for all occupational vacancies.

Metropolitan Region Openings by Major Occupational Group

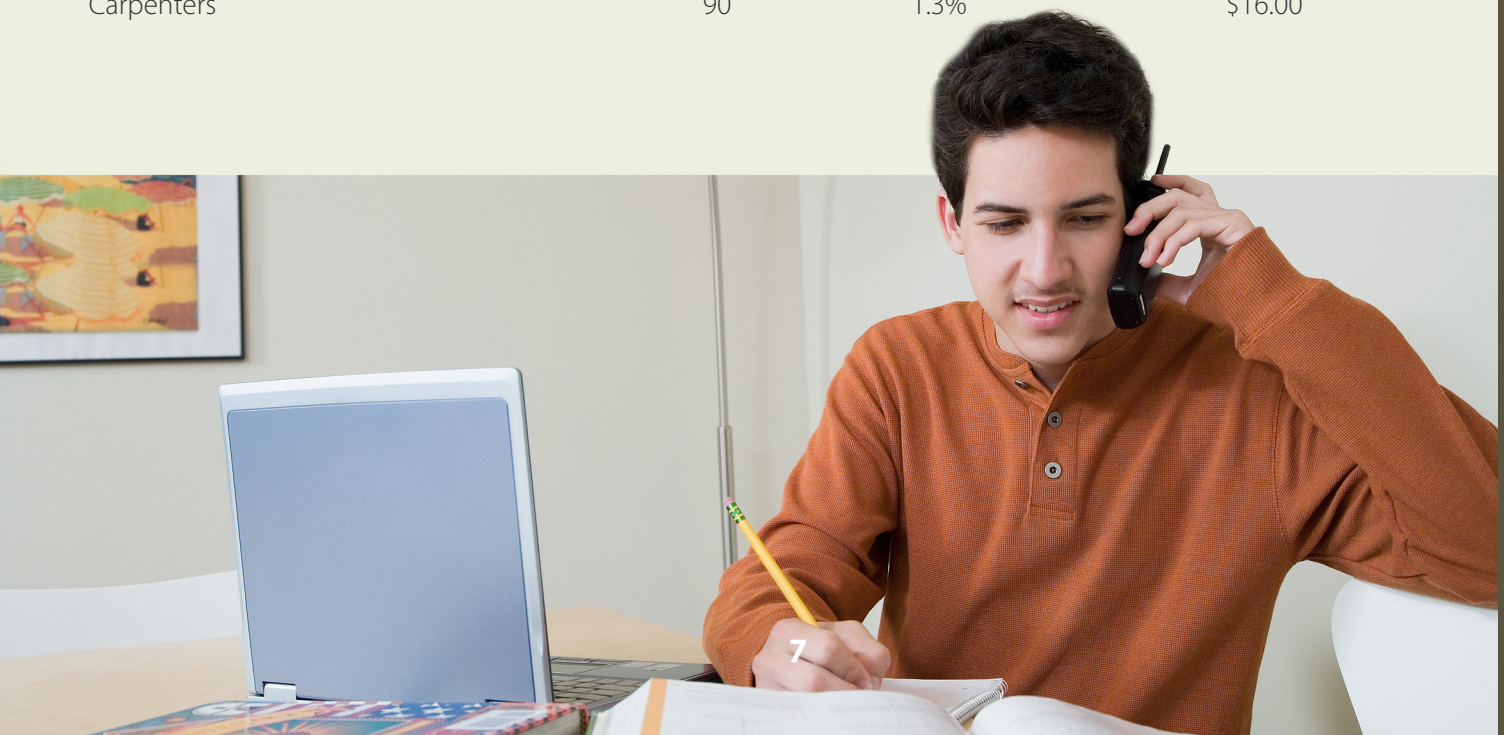
Major Occupational Group	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Opening Wage
Sales and Related Occupations	7,220	6.5%	$10.30
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	5,300	2.8%	$11.10
Food Preparation and Serving-Related Occupations	3,470	4.7%	$8.90
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	2,080	4.2%	$24.30
Construction and Extraction Occupations	1,860	3.3%	$16.50
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	1,650	2.7%	$13.10
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	1,460	2.8%	$14.70
Personal Care and Service Occupations	1,170	5.6%	$8.90
Healthcare Support Occupations	1,060	4.3%	$11.00
Community and Social Services Occupations	860	6.6%	$10.00
Production Occupations	850	1.3%	$13.30
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	710	1.1%	$18.20
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	660	2.2%	$10.20
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	560	1.7%	$28.70
Management Occupations	540	1.2%	$30.90
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	520	1.3%	$16.70
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	310	1.5%	$25.30
Protective Service Occupations	310	1.4%	$11.50
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	250	1.7%	$13.70
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	70	0.9%	$25.10
Legal Occupations	50	0.6%	$16.40
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	10	0.6%	$7.30

Metropolitan Region Occupations with the Most Openings

Occupation	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Opening Wage
Retail Salespersons	3,480	10.0%	$11.00
Cashiers	2,870	14.1%	$9.30
Customer Service Representatives	2,830	8.8%	$10.30
Registered Nurses	1,140	7.5%	$23.90
Electricians	1,070	24.4%	$19.10
Accountants and Auditors	970	11.7%	$10.20
Food Preparation Workers	870	26.7%	$9.40
Social and Human Service Assistants	820	16.0%	$9.50
Amusement and Recreation Attendants	690	25.4%	$7.90
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	610	4.6%	$9.70

Metropolitan Region Top 10 Occupations Requiring an Associate Degree or Applied Technology Training

Occupation	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Opening Wage
Electricians	940	21.5%	$19.50
Registered Nurses	780	5.1%	$22.30
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	380	2.7%	$16.70
Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians	270	19.7%	$17.90
Dental Assistants	250	7.3%	$9.00
Medical Assistants	240	4.5%	$12.90
Nursing Assistants	210	2.6%	$9.50
Social and Human Service Assistants	210	4.1%	$11.00
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	110	2.6%	$20.90
Carpenters	90	1.3%	$16.00



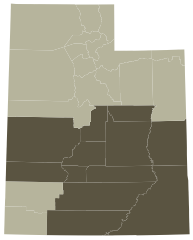
Highest average offered wages were reported for vacancies in management occupations at $30.90 per hour, followed by computer and mathematical occupations at $28.70 per hour.

Metropolitan Region Top 10 Occupations Requiring a Bachelor's or Advanced Degree

Occupation	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Opening Wage
Registered Nurses	360	2.4%	$27.30
Financial Managers	140	4.3%	$28.30
Physical Therapists	120	8.9%	$29.10
Pharmacists	100	4.3%	$32.00
Accountants and Auditors	100	1.2%	$20.70
Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	80	8.2%	$10.00
Recreation Workers	80	3.4%	$12.10
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	80	1.0%	$14.90
Industrial Production Managers	80	7.3%	$26.00
Market Research Analysts	70	2.0%	$22.50

Metropolitan Region Occupations with the Highest Vacancy Rates

Occupation	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Opening Wage
Furnace, Kiln, Oven, Drier, and Kettle Operators and Tenders	30	65.2%	$12.00
Food Servers, Nonrestaurant	430	53.5%	$7.70
Fine Artists, Including Painters, Sculptors, and Illustrators	80	50.9%	$7.30
Rail Car Repairers	10	43.2%	$18.40
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic	170	37.0%	$11.00
Special Education Teachers, Preschool	10	31.5%	$11.40
Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers	50	27.7%	$9.10
Food Preparation Workers	870	26.7%	$9.40
Amusement and Recreation Attendants	690	25.4%	$7.90
Electricians	1,070	24.4%	$19.10



NON-METROPOLITAN REGION SUMMARY

The JVS Non-metropolitan Region includes Beaver, Carbon, Emery, Garfield, Grand, Kane, Millard, Piute, San Juan, Sanpete, Sevier and Wayne counties. These counties exhibit vastly different economies with some maintaining tourism-dependent workforces, others dominated by resource-reliant industries while others are diverse.

Non-metropolitan Utah showed a job vacancy rate of 2.1 percent, somewhat lower than the statewide average of 2.8 percent. On average 1,100 non-metropolitan openings were available at any given time during the survey.

The average offered wage for available openings in the area measured $13.40 per hour, just higher than the statewide average offered wage of $13.20 per hour. Wages outside the Wasatch Front typically run below statewide averages due to differences in industry structures and workforce composition. However, the industry/occupational mix of non-metropolitan openings produced a relatively high average offered wage.

More than 48 percent of non-metropolitan openings required no work experience. On the other hand, these positions offered much lower wages ($10.40 per hour) than those jobs requiring related experience ($18.40 per hour).

Area	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Offered Wage
Non-Metropolitan Utah	1,060	2.1%	$13.40
Statewide	34,750	2.8%	$13.20

Roughly 62 percent of non-metropolitan openings were available for more than 30 days, a figure comparable to most other Utah regions. Statewide, almost 61 percent of openings were unfilled after 30 days. The Non-metropolitan Region showed a particularly high level of "always available" openings, perhaps reflecting a mismatch of skills or high turnover for certain positions.

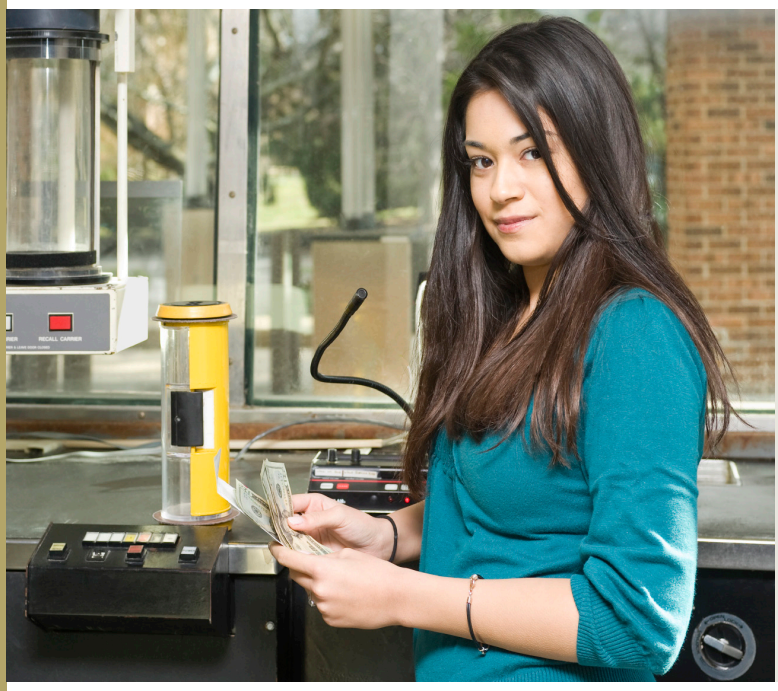
The two industries with the highest number of survey openings—education/health care/social services and leisure/hospitality services—are among the largest industries in the Non-metropolitan Region. Trade/transportation/utilities also showed a notable number of openings.

OCCUPATIONS AND OPENINGS

Building/grounds cleaning and maintenance and personal care/service occupations each accounted for roughly 12 percent of total openings.

Non-Metropolitan Region Utah Openings by Major Occupational Group

Major Occupational Group	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Opening Wage
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	120	11.0%	$9.00
Personal Care and Service Occupations	120	10.7%	$9.40
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	110	8.0%	$12.50
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	100	6.7%	$14.90
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	90	3.1%	$32.30
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	90	11.2%	$9.00
Food Preparation and Serving-Related Occupations	80	11.7%	$8.60
Sales and Related Occupations	80	10.7%	$9.40
Healthcare Support Occupations	50	10.9%	$9.00
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	40	10.6%	$9.00
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	40	6.8%	$14.70
Management Occupations	30	4.8%	$20.70
Construction and Extraction Occupations	30	6.2%	$16.10
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	20	5.6%	$17.90
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	20	3.7%	$26.90
Protective Service Occupations	20	5.4%	$18.60
Community and Social Services Occupations	10	12.5%	$8.00
Production Occupations	10	8.1%	$12.30



Occupational groups with the highest proffered wages are those which typically require higher-level skills and/or education.

With a slightly smaller share of openings, education/training, transportation/material moving, healthcare practitioners/technical and office administrative support occupational groups each made strong contributions to the openings total.

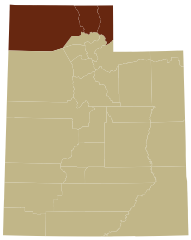
Occupations registering the most openings also tend to show the highest existing employment levels in the non-metropolitan Utah. Food preparation/servers also produced a notable number of openings. This occupational group is very large but is also subject to high turnover.

The heavy reliance on tourism is reflected in the maids/housekeeping occupation heading the list with 120 openings. Registered nurses, amusement/recreation attendants and motel/hotel desk clerks each registered roughly 50 openings in the JVS for non-metropolitan Utah. These are all occupations with a large existing employment base. The region's agricultural roots are also evident with the inclusion of farm workers on the most openings list.

Occupational groups with the highest proffered wages are those which typically require higher-level skills and/or education. Healthcare practitioners, management and architecture/engineering occupations all showed average opening wages of greater than $20.00 per hour in non-metropolitan Utah.

Non-Metropolitan Region Utah Occupations with the Most Openings

Occupation	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Opening Wage
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	120	11.4%	$8.80
Registered Nurses	50	10.4%	$26.60
Amusement and Recreation Attendants	50	22.1%	$8.00
Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	50	7.9%	$9.00
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	40	2.9%	$20.90
Teacher Assistants	40	4.0%	$10.00
Nursing Assistants	40	9.0%	$8.40
Cashiers	30	1.6%	$7.40
Cooks, Institution and Cafeteria	30	11.3%	$9.80



NORTHERN REGION SUMMARY

The JVS Northern Region includes Box Elder, Cache and Rich counties. The job vacancy rate for this region was 1.6 percent, which translates to approximately 1,060 open jobs at any time during the fourth quarter of 2012, and 3.1 percent of all openings statewide.

The Northern Region had the lowest vacancy rate, and the third highest opening wage, of the five regions in the state. Production and transportation and material moving occupations paid above average wages, and represented areas of regional strength.

The average offered wage for openings in the area was $13.30 per hour, slightly higher than the statewide average due to the disproportionately high number of openings for jobs in higher paying major occupational groups like transportation and material moving and production workers.

Nearly 53 percent of the job openings in the region were in the manufacturing and trade, transportation, and utilities sectors. During the survey, the manufacturing sector had 320 openings, while the trade, transportation, and utilities sector had 240 openings.

The Northern Region filled job openings more quickly than all of Utah's counties combined. More than 52 percent of openings in the region were filled in 30 days or less, compared to the 39 percent statewide average.

Job openings in the north required less education than job openings statewide. Nearly 79 percent of job openings in the north required a high school diploma or less, compared to 74 percent statewide.

38 percent of job openings in the region required previous work experience compared to 48 percent statewide.

NORTHERN MAJOR OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS

Transportation and material moving occupations had the highest number of total openings of any major occupational group with 180 and a 3.6 percent vacancy rate. These openings paid an average of $15.10 per hour. Transportation and material moving occupations generally require educational attainment of applied technology training or less.

Sales and related occupations were a close second with 160 openings and a lower vacancy rate of 2.6 percent. Openings in the sales and related occupations have lower educational requirements and less previous experience requirements than average, which helps explain the below average opening wage of $10.10 per hour. Sales and related occupations openings accounted for 15.4 percent of vacancies in the region, 7 percentage

Area	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Offered Wage
Northern Utah	1,060	1.6%	$13.30
Statewide	34,750	2.8%	$13.20

points less than the state average of 22.4 percent.

Transportation and material moving, sales and related, office and administrative support, production, and food and preparation support occupations combined accounted for 66 percent of the region's vacancies and offered an average wage of $11.90 per hour. Transportation and material moving and production occupations represented 28 percent of vacancies in the region, which combined to be 19 percentage points above the state average for those occupations.

Life, physical, and social science occupations had the highest average offered wage in the region at $42.10 per hour, but had only 10 openings and a low vacancy rate of less than one percent.

Healthcare support occupations had the second highest vacancy rate in the region at 3.1 percent. 50 of these openings offered an average of $11.00 per hour.

There were 80 openings in the healthcare practitioners and technical, architecture and engineering, computer and mathematical, and management occupations with wage offerings between $23.40 and $28.50 per hour. The average vacancy rate for these four occupations in the northern region was 1.4 percent. These occupations generally require an educational attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher.

NORTHERN OCCUPATIONS

Printing press operators had the highest number of job openings in the production occupational group. These 30 vacancies accounted for 25 percent of the openings in that occupational group, and 2.8 percent of the total vacancies in the region. Printing press operators had the tenth highest openings of any occupation in the region, and a higher vacancy rate than any other occupation at 13.2 percent. The average offered wage for this occupation was $16.60 per hour, nearly $3.30 higher than the regional average.

Healthcare support occupations had the second highest vacancy rate in the region at 3.1 percent.

Retail salespersons accounted for 81 percent of the openings in sales and related occupations, and 12 percent of total openings. The offered hourly wage for this occupation was $4.00 less than the area average.

Laborers, both construction and freight, stock, and material movers, accounted for 110 openings with vacancy rates of 5.0 and 6.7 percent respectively. The average offered wages for these openings were $10.00 and $12.60 per hour respectively.

Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers constituted the third highest number of openings and was the highest paying job among the ten occupations with the most vacancies. The occupation had an estimated 70 openings, a higher-than-average vacancy rate at 5.3 percent and an average offered wage of $20.20 per hour. The statewide average pay for employed truck drivers during 2011 was $19.90 an hour. These openings require a license or certification.

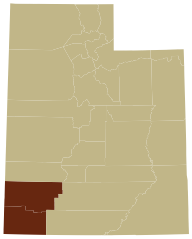
Northern Region Openings by Major Occupational Group

Major Occupational Group	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Opening Wage
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	180	3.6%	$15.10
Sales and Related Occupations	160	2.6%	$10.10
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	140	1.4%	$10.50
Production Occupations	120	1.3%	$14.50
Food Preparation and Serving-Related Occupations	100	2.1%	$7.80
Construction and Extraction Occupations	80	2.8%	$12.40
Healthcare Support Occupations	50	3.1%	$11.00
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	40	2.0%	$11.00
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	30	1.3%	$29.00
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	30	1.3%	$18.00
Community and Social Services Occupations	20	2.8%	$9.00
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	20	1.2%	$23.60
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	20	2.2%	$23.40
Personal Care and Service Occupations	10	1.0%	$11.80
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	10	0.6%	$17.40
Protective Service Occupations	10	1.1%	$9.50
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	10	1.6%	$13.00
Management Occupations	10	0.3%	$24.60
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	10	0.6%	$42.10

Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers constituted third highest number of openings and was the highest paying job among the ten occupations with the most vacancies.

Northern Region Occupations with the Most Openings

Occupation	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Opening Wage
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	120	11.4%	$8.80
Registered Nurses	50	10.4%	$26.60
Amusement and Recreation Attendants	50	22.1%	$8.00
Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	50	7.9%	$9.00
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	40	2.9%	$20.90
Teacher Assistants	40	4.0%	$10.00
Nursing Assistants	40	9.0%	$8.40
Cashiers	30	1.6%	$7.40
Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	30	82.3%	$9.70
Cooks, Institution and Cafeteria	30	11.3%	$9.80



SOUTHWESTERN REGION SUMMARY

The JVS Southwestern Region is comprised of Iron and Washington counties and due to its relative size, Washington County dominates the survey results. During the fourth quarter of 2012, Washington County's economy was in full-growth mode, while Iron County struggled to create jobs.

Southwest Utah showed a job vacancy rate of approximately 1.8 percent, somewhat lower than the statewide average of 2.8 percent. On average, roughly 1,100 openings were available during the survey period.

The average offered wage for available openings measured $12.20 per hour, notably lower than the $13.20 offered statewide. Wages outside the Wasatch Front typically run below statewide averages due to differences in industry structures, workforce composition and the forces of supply and demand.

Only 39 percent of surveyed openings had been available for more than 30 days—the lowest level of any survey region. Comparatively, almost 61 percent of statewide openings were unfilled after 30 days. Higher-than-average unemployment levels produced a large pool of unemployed labor, resulting in a fast-fill rate for southwestern Utah vacancies.

The survey provided some good news for those entering the labor market for the first time. Almost 45 percent of the survey openings required no work experience. On the other hand, these positions offered only $8.80 per hour compared to jobs requiring related experience, which offered $17.60 per hour.

Job openings occur from both employment growth and the need to replace employees who have left the job. In this region, growth seemed to drive new openings. The two industries with the highest number of survey openings—trade/transportation/utilities and education/health care/social services –also experienced the largest employment gains during the survey period and are among the largest industries in the Southwestern Region.

OCCUPATIONS AND OPENINGS

The two largest southwestern Utah occupational groups, sales and office/administrative support, also showed the highest number of openings during the survey period. These two classifications accounted for 44 percent of all survey openings in the region.

Together, healthcare practitioners/technical and healthcare support occupations generated an additional 19 percent of survey openings. The strong showing from these two groups mirrors the strong employment expansion in healthcare in southwestern Utah during the survey period. In addition, high turnover in certain healthcare support occupations also contributed to the high number of openings.

Area	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Offered Wage
Southwestern Utah	1,130	1.8%	$12.20
Statewide	34,750	2.8%	$13.20

Southwestern Region Openings by Major Occupational Group

Major Occupational Group	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Opening Wage
Sales and Related Occupations	270	3.5%	$8.10
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	230	2.2%	$10.40
Healthcare Support Occupations	110	5.2%	$12.70
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	90	2.5%	$24.50
Community and Social Services Occupations	70	6.4%	$13.30
Food Preparation and Serving-Related Occupations	70	1.1%	$8.10
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	60	1.4%	$15.70
Legal Occupations	30	7.4%	$8.50
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	30	0.6%	$21.00
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	30	1.0%	$10.00
Personal Care and Service Occupations	30	1.7%	$9.80
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	30	1.4%	$12.30
Production Occupations	30	1.3%	$14.30
Construction and Extraction Occupations	20	0.4%	$13.00
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	10	0.4%	$23.20
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	10	0.8%	$17.90

Job openings occur from both employment growth and the need to replace employees who have left the job. In this region, growth seemed to drive new openings.

Southwestern Region Occupations with the Most Openings

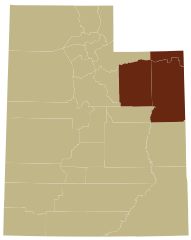
Occupation	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Opening Wage
Retail Salespersons	200	7.7%	$7.30
Customer Service Representatives	110	7.5%	$9.40
Nursing Assistants	50	8.4%	$10.70
Registered Nurses	40	3.6%	$27.20
Cashiers	40	1.6%	$7.60
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	30	2.7%	$9.80
Social and Human Service Assistants	30	6.7%	$10.00
Receptionists and Information Clerks	30	3.8%	$11.50
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	20	2.0%	$25.00
Dishwashers	20	6.3%	$7.30

Despite a strong overall recovery in construction employment in Washington County, few openings were tabulated in the construction occupations. Seasonal factors most likely produced the low construction opening turnout as the survey was conducted during winter months.

Not surprisingly, occupational groups with the highest proffered wages proved to be those that typically require higher-level skills and/or education. Healthcare practitioners, management, business/financial occupations and education/training openings all showed average opening wages of greater than $21.00 per hour.

Occupations registering the most openings also generally showed the highest existing employment in southwest Utah. The retail salesperson occupation topped the list with 200 openings. Customer service representatives ranked second with 110 openings. Both of these occupations are among the occupations displaying the largest existing employment. High-opening occupations such as registered nurses, cashiers, truck drivers, maids/housekeeping and nursing assistants are also ranked in the largest occupational groups.

On the other hand, notably absent from the list of occupations with high openings are those involved with food preparation. This may be due to survey/sampling variability given the high turnover rates in these occupations.



UINTAH BASIN REGION SUMMARY

The JVS Uintah Basin Region includes Daggett, Duchesne and Uintah counties. The job vacancy rate for this region was 2.2 percent, which translates to approximately 540 open jobs at any time during the survey period and was lower than the statewide average of 2.8 percent. The vacancies were largely represented by the transportation of the region's staple commodities—oil and gas. Aside from occupations within the oil and gas related industries, the highest shares of openings also included population-supporting activities such as food preparation, construction, and health care services.

The Uintah Basin Region's average offered wage was $15.60 per hour, notable higher than the statewide average of $13.20 per hour.

During the fourth quarter of 2012, 48 percent of all open positions had been open for less than 30 days. Twelve percent were open between 30 and 59 days while 16 percent were open for at least 60 days. The remaining 24 percent of openings were positions employers reported as being always open.

Area	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Offered Wage
Uintah Basin	540	2.2%	$15.60
Statewide	34,750	2.8%	$13.20

Uintah Basin vacancies required a high school degree or equivalent 61 percent of the time. Meanwhile, 16 percent of all vacancies listed no educational requirement. Open jobs offering wages higher than $20.00 per hour required at least an associate degree or related experience.

UINTAH BASIN MAJOR OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS

The major occupational group with the most reported openings in the Uintah Basin Region was transportation and material moving, accounting for 17 percent of all openings. There were an estimated 100 openings within this occupational group, representing a 4 percent vacancy rate. The average wage offered was $17.50 per hour, higher than the region's overall offered wage of $15.60 but lower than the $19.40 wage offered within the same occupational group during the previous vacancy survey period. High demand for transportation occupations is expected to continue as the nearest full scale oil-processing occurs outside the Basin, north of Salt Lake City.

Food preparation and serving-related occupations reported 80 job openings, 15 percent of job vacancies in the area. Three of four openings in this occupational group were for part-time positions. Approximately 63 percent of the openings in this occupation required a high school diploma or equivalent and 60 percent required no experience. The average opening wage for this occupation was $9.60 an hour.

Openings in construction and extraction accounted for 11 percent of the region's reported vacancies. Average

Uintah Basin Region Openings by Major Occupational Group

Major Occupational Group	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Opening Wage
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	100	4.0%	$17.50
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	80	4.1%	$9.60
Construction and Extraction Occupations	60	1.3%	$18.30
Sales and Related Occupations	60	3.2%	$10.20
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	40	2.9%	$22.10
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	30	4.5%	$15.10
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	30	1.6%	$18.30
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	20	0.8%	$10.20
Community and Social Service Occupations	20	12.8%	$11.00
Production Occupations	20	1.6%	$24.00
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	10	2.3%	$15.40
Protective Service Occupations	10	2.1%	$17.90
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	10	2.5%	$15.40
Management Occupations	10	1.2%	$19.30
Personal Care and Service Occupations	10	1.4%	$8.80
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	10	1.6%	$38.00
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	10	3.3%	$24.00

opening wages for these occupations were $18.30 per hour. Ninety-three percent required no more than a high school diploma or equivalent, with 7 percent requiring some technical training.

The occupational group with the highest vacancy rate was community and social service occupations at 13 percent, or approximately 20 openings at any point during the survey period.

UINTAH BASIN OCCUPATIONS

The occupation with the most reported job openings was for heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, representing 60 vacant positions. The vacancy rate was just over 4 percent and the average wage offered for these vacancies was $20.80 per hour.

There was an average of 40 cashier positions during the survey period, 68 percent of which were for part-time work.

A 13 percent vacancy rate was represented by the 20 open positions for bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists. The average wage for openings within this occupation was $22.60 per hour.

Uintah Basin Region Occupations with the Most Openings

Occupation	Openings	Vacancy Rate	Average Opening Wage
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	60	4.2%	$20.80
Cashiers	40	8.3%	$9.00
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	20	13.1%	$22.60
Construction Laborers	20	4.6%	$14.40
Registered Nurses	20	6.8%	$20.90
Retail Salespersons	10	2.1%	$10.10
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	10	2.6%	$7.80
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	10	4.7%	$25.80
Driver/Sales Workers	10	80.8%	$12.50
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	10	6.4%	$31.60

Utah Department of Workforce Services
Workforce Development and Information Division
140 E. 300 S.
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

For more information go to jobs.utah.gov/wi

Presorted Standard
US Postage
PAID
SLC, UT
Permit # 4621

See the entire report at http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/pubs/jvs/jvs13.pdf