

JVS Methodology

In conducting the fourth quarter 2005 Job Vacancy Survey (JVS), the Department of Workforce Services primarily adhered to the methods and models developed by the National Job Vacancy Survey Workgroup and the state of Minnesota. To ensure statistically valid results, all of the software used in collecting, cleaning and analyzing JVS data was developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for use in job vacancy surveys. The survey tool implemented was only slightly modified from the model instrument provided by the National JVS Workgroup, which was both field and cognitively tested. To produce job vacancy rates, we used Occupational Employment Statistics employment estimates.

Over 4,500 Utah employers were surveyed across every major industrial sector except for agriculture. The survey enjoyed a 62 percent response rate, equaling 2,728 active employers that fell within the survey's scope. The expected response rate was 50 percent at a five percent relative standard error.

Common Terms:

Job Vacancy Rate: The number of job openings in a given classification (e.g. region, industry, occupation) divided by the total employment in that classification.

Full-time Opening: A job opening requiring the selected applicant to work at least 35 hours a week.

Advertised Wage: The offered wage attached to a given job opening.

Estimated Job Openings: Estimated openings at any time during the fourth quarter 2005.

Metropolitan Utah: Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, Wasatch, Summit, Morgan, Weber, Tooele and Juab counties

Southwestern Utah: Iron and Washington counties

Uintah Basin: Duchesne, Daggett and Uintah counties