

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES

JOB VACANCY STUDY

A Profile of
Job Openings
in Utah

See the entire report at:
<http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/jvs2008>



U I N T A H B A S I N

4th Quarter 2007

By Christopher Gibbs, Research Analyst

The Job Vacancy Study (JVS) is designed to gauge the characteristics of the current demand for labor in Utah. JVS can help job seekers identify occupations in demand, and can help employers recognize the existence of skill shortages and labor gaps. Nearly 3,500 employers were surveyed during the fourth quarter of 2007. The JVS Uintah Basin region includes Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah counties.

Region Summary

- The job vacancy rate in the Uintah Basin measured 5.2 percent, meaning there were over five open positions for every 100 jobs. This translates into over 1,000 open jobs on any given day during the 4th quarter. The region's vacancy rate was the highest out of three regions surveyed.
- The average advertised wage for the Basin is estimated to be \$14.12/hr, which was the highest average wage for all regions surveyed.
- Over 80% of the open jobs reported were full-time positions, and of those, 84 percent offered some sort of benefits in the form of medical, sick leave, vacation, or retirement.
- Nearly one out of every five openings in the area has been vacant for over 60 days or more.
- Over 90 percent of vacant jobs are for permanent positions.

Key Industries

- Continuing the trend of the last few years, the mining and construction industries accounted for nearly half of the vacant jobs in the Uintah Basin.
- The retail trade industry reported the third most vacancies in the Uintah Basin, reflecting how the energy boom and increasing population are drawing a wide variety of businesses to the area.
- The transportation and warehousing industry reported the highest average wage for open positions, at \$18.10/hour.

Key Occupations

- The study's confidentiality standards require that at least three separate firms report openings for an occupation in order for any information about that occupation to be published. This year ten different occupations met this requirement with seven of them concentrated in mining and construction and three in the retail trade and hospitality service sectors.

- Truck drivers requiring a CDL were among the most demanded occupations reported in the study with 70% of the firms surveyed indicating that they are always recruiting for this position. These openings included one of the highest advertised wages at over \$19/hour.
- Of the occupations that met confidentiality in the study, six of the ten reported a higher advertised wage than in 2005, even after adjusting for inflation. The four remaining occupations had no comparable data from the previous study.

Benefits

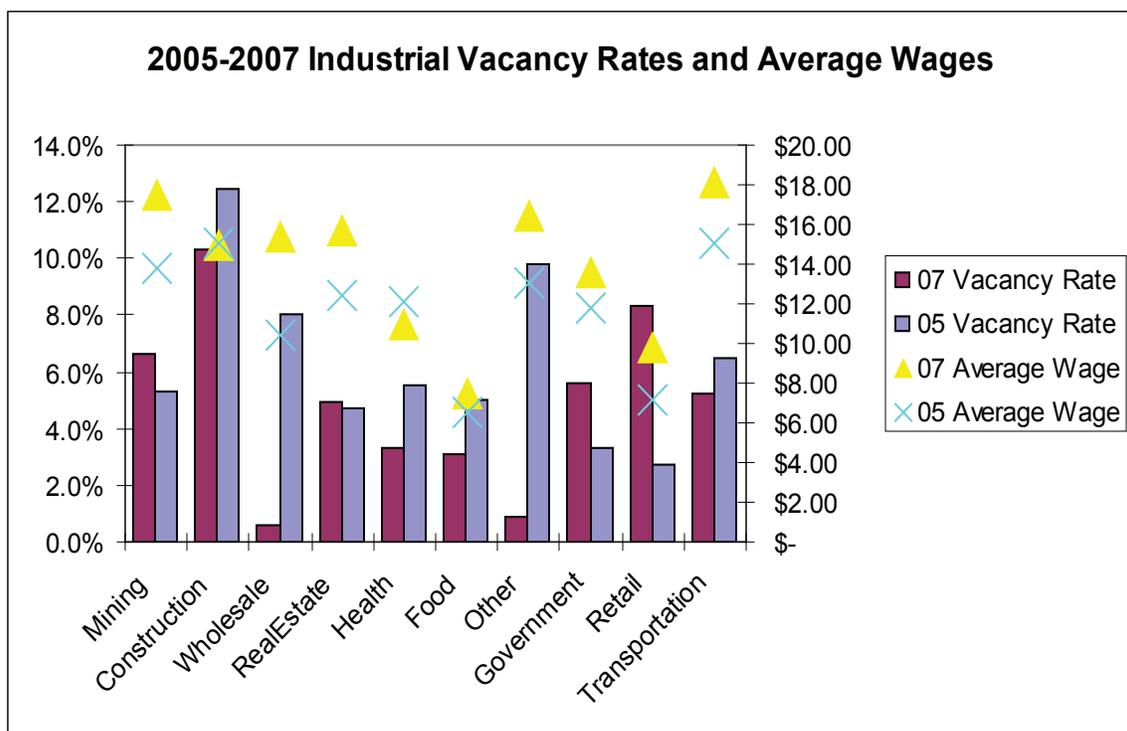
- The Uintah Basin had a high rate of open jobs offering benefits. Almost 80 percent of reported vacancies offered a least one of the following benefits: medical benefits, paid sick leave, paid vacation, or retirement.
- The least offered benefit in the region was paid sick leave, with only 40 percent of firms advertising this benefit for their open jobs.

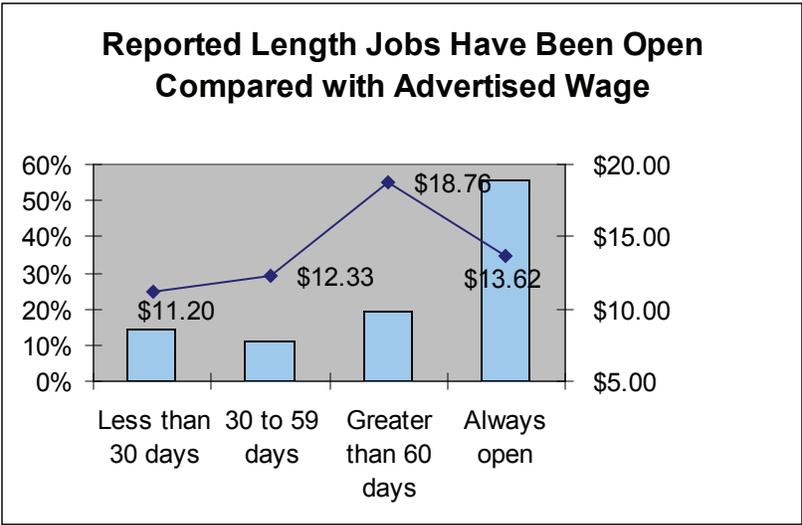
Education

- Over 85 percent of the job openings required no education or only a high school diploma as reported by employers.
- The advertised wages reported in the study increased with every level of education required to fill an opening, except between Bachelor's degrees and advanced degrees. The drop between Bachelor's degrees and advanced degrees reflect the level of experience required for the positions, meaning the openings that required advanced degrees were entry level, while the Bachelors degree positions asked for related experience.

Length Open

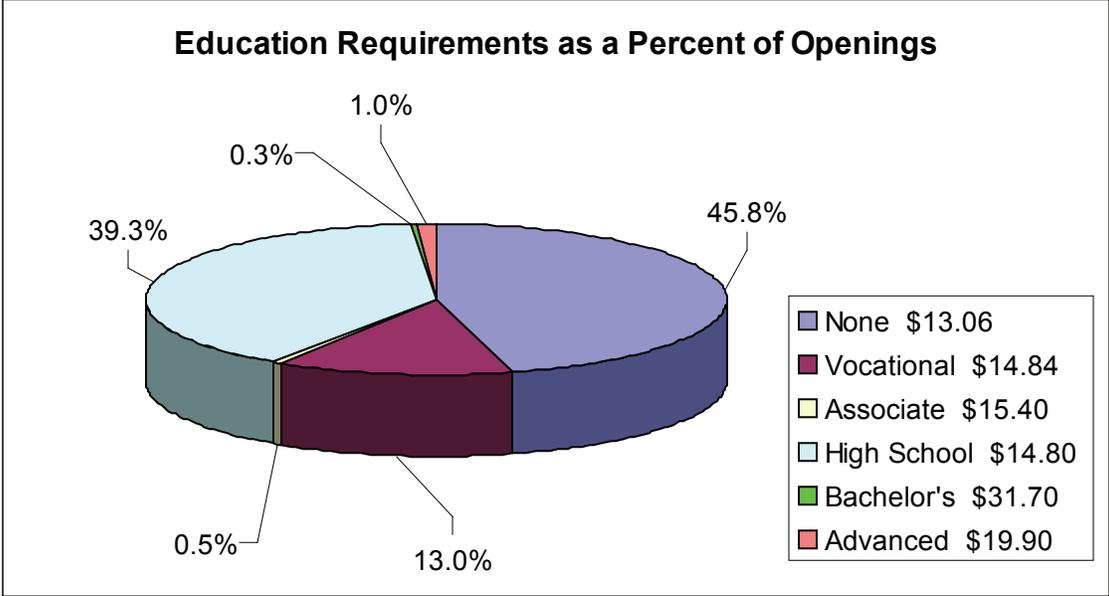
- The study revealed that the Uintah Basin has a much harder time filling higher-skilled positions than low-skilled ones. This is reflected in the average advertised wage, which increased by how long the job remained open.





Top Industries by Number of Job Openings

| Industry | Advertised Wage | Estimated Openings | Estimated Employment | Industry Vacancy Rate |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mining | \$ 17.49 | 314 | 4746 | 6.6% |
| Construction | \$ 14.93 | 231 | 2246 | 10.3% |
| Retail Trade | \$ 9.83 | 202 | 2423 | 8.3% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | \$ 18.10 | 85 | 1610 | 5.3% |



Occupations by Advertised Wage for Job Openings

| Occupations | Advertised Wage | Estimated Jobs Open | Total Estimated Employment | Occupation Vacancy Rate |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Industrial Machinery Mechanics | \$ 19.25 | 15 | 200 | 7.4% |
| Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor Trailer | \$ 19.04 | 113 | 710 | 16.0% |
| Roustabouts, Oil and Gas | \$ 16.27 | 12 | 420 | 2.8% |
| Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers | \$ 16.02 | 14 | 110 | 12.4% |
| Cashiers | \$ 8.96 | 50 | 450 | 11.1% |
| Retail Sales | \$ 7.42 | 70 | 410 | 17.1% |
| Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | \$ 7.09 | 24 | 140 | 16.9% |

