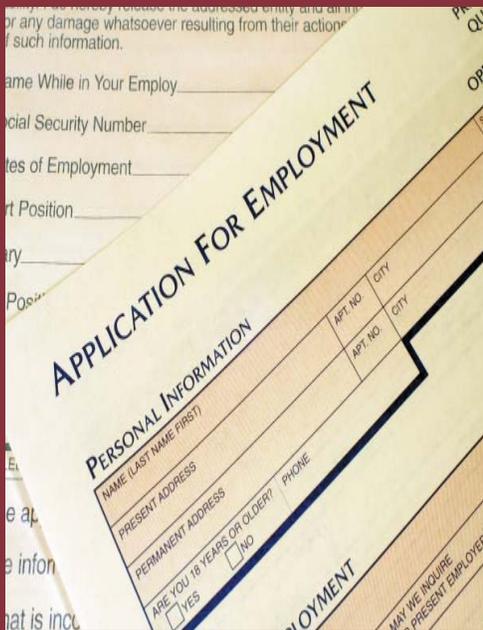


Rhode Island's Job Vacancy Report Summary



Summer 2007

Rhode Island Department
of Labor and Training

Labor Market Information Unit

In Summer 2007, there were an estimated 8,637 job vacancies in Rhode Island's private sector, a decrease of 2,312 (-21.1%) from the 10,949 vacancies estimated between May and June 2006. Nearly 66 percent of the openings were full-time positions (defined as 35 or more hours of work per week), compared to 56 percent of estimated vacancies in 2006. Part-time jobs accounted for the remaining 34.2 percent of vacancies in Summer 2007, (with notable concentrations in Education, Training & Library, Protective Service, and Transportation & Material Moving occupations).

Between June and August of 2007, most private sector vacancies were for permanent positions (92.2%), somewhat higher than last year (87.0%). Eight percent of estimated job openings were listed as temporary or seasonal in nature. The majority were concentrated in occupations needed to meet the demands for the upcoming school year.

The educational attainment requirements for job vacancies increased in Summer 2007. Fifty-two percent of job vacancies required a high school diploma/GED or less in 2007, down from 64 percent of vacancies requiring the same education level last year. An additional 11.6 percent required vocational training, an increase from the 2006 estimate of 8.3 percent needing vocational training. A college education was required for the remaining 36 percent of estimated vacancies, divided among associate degree (12.7%), bachelor's degree (18.5%) and advanced degree (4.9%).

Along with educational requirements, employers are strongly seeking experienced workers for many positions. Nearly 60 percent of all estimated vacancies listed a preference for previous job-related experience. This was up 7.6 percentage points from what was measured in Spring 2006. As employers desire more experience from potential employees, the demand for applicants with general work experience and/or no experience declines. Eighteen percent of job openings required general work experience, compared to 20 percent in 2006; and 23 percent of the vacancies required no experience, compared to 28 percent the previous year.

Major Findings

Vacancy duration can serve as an indicator of workforce shortages due to an expanding economy, lack of willing applicants, or a thin pool of qualified candidates due to specialized education or training requirements. Many firms struggle to find enough qualified applicants to meet the growing demand for their services.

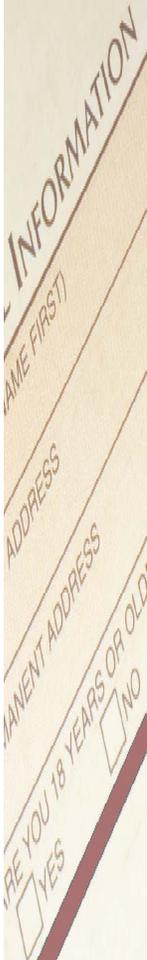
Vacancy duration changed very little between 2006 and 2007. Overall, 38 percent of the estimated job vacancies in Summer 2007 had been open for less than 30 days. In contrast, one-third of estimated openings were constantly being recruited for or always open for hire, while an additional 13.4 percent had been open for more than 60 days.

The *Rhode Island Job Vacancy Survey* also asked employers to list the wage range and benefits offered for each vacancy. Overall, job vacancies estimated between June and August 2007 paid a median wage range of \$11.00 to \$12.00 per hour. Seventy-seven percent of estimated openings provided access to health insurance for which the employer contributed partial or full payment, while 81.0 percent offered paid vacation and 68.4 percent offered retirement benefits. More than 13 percent of measurable vacancies offered no benefits at all.

Job vacancy data was collected and reported by industry sector and major occupational group. Job vacancies were reported in all major industry sectors and 21 of the major occupational groups. For the complete reporting of industry and major occupational data, please read our full report at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/jvs.htm.

Private Sector Job Vacancy Data Summary Summer 2007

	2007	2006
Number of Job Vacancies	8,637	10,949
Job Vacancy Rate (vacancies per 100 filled jobs)	2.1%	2.7%
Full-Time Positions	65.8%	55.8%
Part-Time Positions	34.2%	44.2%
Vacancies Open < 30 Days	38.4%	35.8%
Vacancies Open Between 30-59 Days	16.5%	17.8%
Vacancies Open > 60 Days	13.4%	12.6%
Constantly Recruiting/Always Hiring	31.7%	33.7%
Permanent Positions	92.2%	87.0%
Temporary/Seasonal Positions	7.8%	13.0%
Vacancies Requiring a Diploma/GED	30.9%	41.0%
Vacancies Requiring Vocational Training	11.6%	8.3%
Vacancies Requiring an Associate Degree	12.7%	8.3%
Vacancies Requiring a Bachelor Degree	18.5%	16.1%
Vacancies Requiring an Advanced Degree	4.9%	3.7%
No Education Requirement	21.3%	22.6%
License or Certificate Required	20.0%	25.8%
General Work Experience Required	17.9%	20.2%
Experience Related to Position Required	59.3%	51.7%
No Experience Required	22.8%	28.1%
Median Hourly Wage Range	\$11.00 to \$12.00	\$11.00 to \$12.00
Vacancies with Health Insurance	77.3%	63.9%
Vacancies with Paid Sick Leave	52.5%	52.9%
Vacancies with Paid Vacation	81.0%	65.4%
Vacancies with Tuition Reimbursement	51.0%	40.2%
Vacancies with Retirement /Pension Plan	68.4%	60.9%
Vacancies with No Benefits Offered	13.3%	27.2%



Job Vacancy Data by Industry Sector

Rhode Island's Health Care & Social Assistance employers combined for an estimated 3,416 job vacancies in Summer 2007 and a job vacancy rate of 4.6 percent, more than double Rhode Island's job vacancy rate of 2.1 percent. The Health Care & Social Assistance industry dominated all other industries in Rhode Island, employing 18 percent of the state's workforce. More than half of the vacancies in the Health Care & Social Assistance industry were full-time positions and more than 55 percent required an associate degree or higher.

With 1,281 vacancies, Accommodation & Food Services employers accounted for 14.8 percent of all estimated job openings throughout the state. Administrative & Waste Services firms represented 11 percent of the total vacancies with 952 openings. These three industry sectors - Health Care & Social Assistance, Accommodation & Food Services, and Administrative & Waste Services - accounted for more than 5,649 employment opportunities in Summer 2007. While they employ more than 34 percent of Rhode Island's private sector workforce, these sectors accounted for 65 percent of the estimated private sector vacancies.

Nearly eight percent (657) of the vacancies measured were in Retail Trade industries, while an additional 639 vacancies were in Manufacturing industries, followed by Professional, Scientific & Technical (496), Finance & Insurance (438), and Construction (208). Overall, four industry sectors posted job vacancy rates above Rhode Island's private sector average of 2.1 percent: Health Care & Social Assistance (4.6%), Administrative & Waste Services (3.7%), Accommodation & Food Services (3.0%), and Professional, Scientific & Technical (2.3%). High demands in Health Care & Social Assistance continue to follow national trends, indicating the difficulties for health care establishments to meet their workforce needs due to a lack of qualified labor to fill numerous job openings.

The highest concentration of part-time vacancies occurred in the Transportation & Warehousing sector, with 79.3% percent of vacancies offering less than 35 hours of work per week. This included vacancies for School Bus Drivers and School Bus Monitors. Sixty-one percent of the vacancies in the Retail Trade sector were also for part-time jobs.

Job Vacancy Data by Industry Sector

Industry	Estimated Employment	Projected Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate	Part-Time Vacancies	Percent of Total Vacancies
Rhode Island Totals	417,706	8,637	2.1%	34.2%	100.0%
Health Care & Social Assistance	74,436	3,416	4.6%	46.5%	39.5%
Accommodation & Food Service	42,561	1,281	3.0%	31.5%	14.8%
Administrative & Waste Services	25,388	952	3.7%	22.9%	11.0%
Retail Trade	51,753	657	1.3%	60.6%	7.6%
Manufacturing	52,726	639	1.2%	4.1%	7.4%
Professional, Scientific & Technical	21,449	496	2.3%	7.1%	5.7%
Finance & Insurance	26,492	438	1.7%	11.9%	5.1%
Construction	22,803	208	0.9%	1.9%	2.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	9,397	145	1.5%	79.3%	1.7%
Other Services	18,117	130	0.7%	22.3%	1.5%
Information	10,997	77	0.7%	36.4%	0.9%
Education	18,221	65	0.4%	36.9%	0.8%
Wholesale Trade	16,969	58	0.3%	0.0%	0.7%
Art, Entertainment & Recreation	7,692	27	0.4%	29.6%	0.3%

Industry Sector

INFORMATION

(NAME FIRST)

ADDRESS

PERMANENT ADDRESS

ARE YOU 18 YEARS OR OLDER?

YES NO

Job Vacancy Data by Major Occupational Group

In Summer 2007, more than half of all estimated job vacancies were concentrated in just four major occupational groups: Healthcare Practitioner & Technical (1,551), Office & Administrative Support (1,323), Food Preparation & Serving-Related (1,169), and Education, Training & Library (672). The 1,551 vacancies reported for Healthcare Practitioner & Technical occupations included Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical & Vocational Nurses, Radiological Technologists, Physical Therapists, Medical Technologists & Technicians, and Dental Hygienists. This occupational group's 5.8 percent vacancy rate was among the highest reported between June and August 2007 and slightly higher than the 5.6 percent reported one year earlier. Fifty-one percent (792) of the openings in this occupational group were for either Registered Nurses (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN).

Office & Administrative Support occupations, including Stock Clerks & Order Fillers, Receptionists, Office Clerks, Executive Secretaries, Customer Service Representatives, and Bookkeepers, accounted for 1,323 vacancies. Although this comprised 15.3 percent of all vacancies statewide, the major occupational group had a job vacancy rate of just 1.8 percent, slightly below the private sector average (2.1%).

Establishments within the Accommodation & Food Services industry sector reported a strong demand for Food Preparation & Serving workers, including Waitstaff, Cooks, Dishwashers, Counter Attendants, Bartenders, and Hosts & Hostesses. This major occupational group comprised 13 percent of all job vacancies and reported a job vacancy rate of 2.7 percent.

Job Vacancies by Major Occupational Group

Occupational Group	Estimated Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate	Full-Time	Temporary/Seasonal
Private Sector Total	8,637	2.1%	65.8%	7.8%
Management	220	1.1%	86.8%	0.9%
Business & Financial Operations	282	1.6%	99.3%	0.0%
Computer & Mathematical	166	1.9%	94.6%	0.0%
Architecture & Engineering	233	3.9%	100.0%	0.9%
Life, Physical & Social Science	19	0.8%	100.0%	0.0%
Community & Social Services	580	7.7%	45.7%	13.4%
Legal Occupations	33	1.3%	100.0%	15.2%
Education, Training & Library	672	5.9%	33.6%	44.8%
Arts, Design, Entertain., Sports & Media	90	1.5%	83.3%	2.2%
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical	1,551	5.8%	72.0%	0.1%
Healthcare Support	668	4.0%	67.4%	0.3%
Protective Service	46	1.2%	43.5%	4.3%
Food Preparation & Serving-Related	1,169	2.7%	67.6%	5.6%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	46	0.3%	69.6%	0.0%
Personal Care & Service	22	0.2%	77.3%	27.3%
Sales and Related	420	0.9%	52.4%	5.5%
Office & Administrative Support	1,323	1.8%	100.0%	3.4%
Construction & Extraction	126	1.9%	100.0%	0.0%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	269	1.9%	99.6%	0.0%
Production	426	1.1%	94.1%	11.3%
Transportation & Material Moving	276	1.0%	40.2%	31.2%