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Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey Regional Spotlight



Research and Statistics Office

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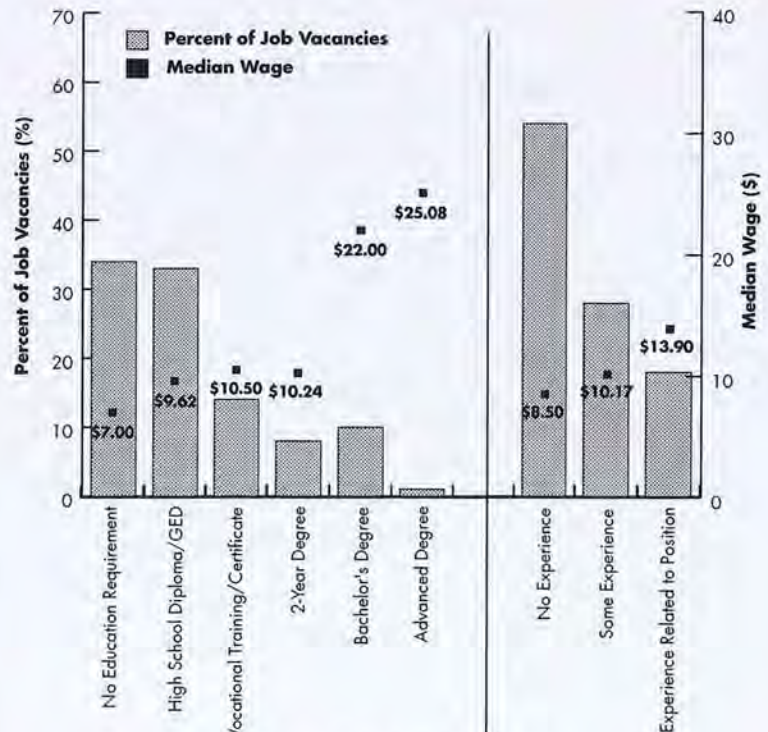
January 2003

As the recession of 2001 has continued, employers have cut back on business expansion plans, recruitment and hiring. Still, many job opportunities remain. Minnesota job-seekers want to know: who's hiring—and in what fields of work?

The *Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey* is a tool to assess current job market demand. During 4th Quarter 2002, the Minnesota Department of Economic Security (MDES) surveyed a representative sample of employers from all major industries and regions of the state. From their information, MDES estimates that there are 55,200 job vacancies statewide.

The Central region (excluding the St. Cloud metro area) has a job vacancy level of 2,583— or 1.8 job vacancies for every 100 filled jobs. That is lower than the area unemployment rate during the same quarter. Some job-seekers will have difficulty finding appropriate work opportunities.

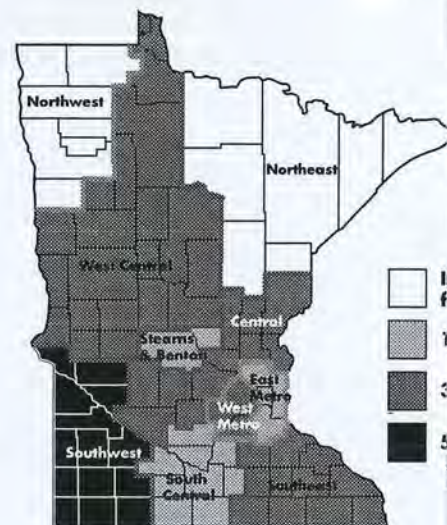
Education and Experience Requirements and Median Wage Offers in the Central Region



Education and Experience Requirements

Statewide, job vacancies are down 31 percent from the previous year (4th Quarter 2001). Where demand remains, the time required to recruit and hire qualified candidates has been reduced.

- Job vacancies decreased 51 percent in the Southwest region, 48 percent in the Central region, and 44 percent West Central region.
- The Northeast and Northwest regions were the only areas where hiring demand increased from one year ago (up 33 percent and 12 percent respectively).
- Slightly more than half of the state's openings are in the Twin Cities metro area.



Job Vacancies by Region

Major Occupational Group	Minnesota		CENTRAL		East Metro		Northeast	
	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)
Sales and Related	8,258	2.8%	197	1.4%	2,372	3.1%	1,780	12.5%
Office and Administrative Support	6,678	1.5	364	2.0	2,656	2.5	552	2.2
Food Preparation and Serving Related	6,655	3.4	248	1.5	1,516	3.6	718	5.8
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	5,959	4.5	318	5.4	1,908	6.3	511	6.0
Transportation and Material Moving	4,924	2.8	260	2.4	827	1.8	400	4.6
Personal Care and Service	3,106	4.9	91	2.2	601	4.2	397	9.8
Healthcare Support	2,913	4.1	241	4.3	704	4.4	150	2.8
Production	2,418	1.0	193	1.1	779	1.2	50	0.5
Education, Training and Library	2,192	1.5	232	2.2	383	0.8	21	0.2
Construction and Extraction	1,587	1.4	NR	NR	538	1.7	34	0.5
Business and Financial Operations	1,552	1.3	7	0.2	560	1.7	33	0.8
Management	1,368	1.1	50	0.9	502	1.6	30	0.6
Community and Social Service	1,357	3.4	69	2.1	239	2.5	140	3.9
Installation, Maintenance and Repair	1,330	1.3	23	0.4	342	1.5	13	0.2
Building, Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	1,183	1.4	121	2.3	375	1.8	172	3.1
Protective Service	950	2.0	88	2.7	348	2.8	21	0.5
Architecture and Engineering	725	1.4	12	0.5	264	1.6	19	1.1
Computer and Mathematical	624	0.9	8	1.0	187	1.0	12	1.1
Art, Design, Entertainment and Media	619	1.9	43	5.4	81	1.0	150	8.9
Life, Physical and Social Science	378	1.6	NR	NR	100	1.3	9	0.6
Farming, Fishing and Forestry	345	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Legal	78	0.5	0	NA	24	0.8	NR	NR
Total Job Vacancies	55,199	2.1%	2,583	1.8%	15,308	2.3%	5,215	3.7%

NR= Data are not reported due to failure to meet reliability standards.
NA= Not Available

Job Vacancies by Region: What Workers are in Demand?

In the Central region, the largest numbers of job vacancies are found in these sectors:

- Office and administrative support, 364 job vacancies
- Healthcare practitioners and technical, 318 job vacancies
- Transportation and material moving, 260 job vacancies
- Food preparation and serving, 248 job vacancies
- Healthcare support, 241 job vacancies

Increase in job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

to 30%

0 to 50%

0% and above

Decrease in
job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

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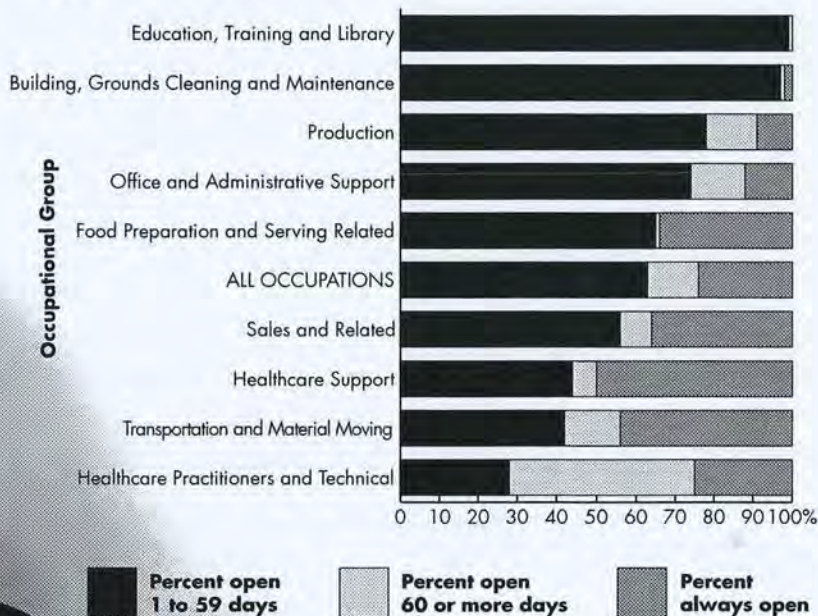
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Northwest		South Central		Southeast		Southwest		Stearns and Benton		West Central		West Metro	
Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)
NR	NR	200	2.1%	993	4.4%	56	0.8%	145	1.3%	419	2.4%	2,060	1.9%
125	1.5	194	1.3	377	1.0	95	0.9	267	1.6	204	0.9	1,844	1.0
24	0.4	522	6.3	568	3.1	23	0.5	117	1.5	650	3.6	2,269	3.5
9	0.4	216	4.4	821	4.3	77	2.2	170	3.5	299	3.3	1,630	3.7
NR	NR	384	4.9	1,199	NR	30	0.4	195	2.6	271	2.7	1,336	2.5
117	10.6	14	0.6	17	0.3	NR	NR	72	4.6	133	3.6	1,659	6.6
52	2.3	204	5.9	535	7.0	124	3.9	60	2.9	185	3.3	658	3.2
99	1.7	254	1.8	407	1.4	58	0.6	42	0.4	167	1.1	369	0.5
44	1.1	91	1.0	90	0.7	41	0.7	26	0.4	609	6.2	655	1.9
NR	NR	23	0.5	3	0.0	32	0.9	0	NA	380	4.7	567	1.6
29	2.0	24	0.9	60	0.9	90	4.5	18	0.6	60	1.8	671	1.2
11	0.5	26	0.6	105	1.2	21	0.7	32	0.9	29	0.5	562	1.0
NR	NR	68	5.1	53	1.5	79	6.4	36	2.9	127	3.6	516	4.4
101	4.7	127	3.4	24	0.3	NR	NR	249	6.7	108	1.6	297	0.8
14	0.7	52	1.3	61	0.9	47	1.8	19	0.6	51	0.8	271	1.0
0	NA	49	2.3	42	1.4	0	NA	5	0.5	6	0.2	391	2.9
33	3.9	3	0.2	13	NR	NR	NR	17	2.0	36	2.0	296	1.4
6	1.7	7	0.6	26	NR	NR	NR	111	10.4	9	1.1	246	0.7
37	8.6	0	NA	25	1.3	NR	NR	36	4.0	41	2.6	202	1.4
NR	NR	2	0.3	24	1.4	NR	NR	7	2.5	NR	NR	225	2.6
0	NA	37	NR	NR	NR	0	NA	0	NA	230	NR	0	NA
0	NA	0	NA	NR	NR	0	NA	3	0.8	NR	NR	47	0.4
797	1.5%	2,497	2.4%	5,511	2.4%	873	1.2%	1,627	1.8%	4,017	2.6%	16,771	1.8%

Some of the fields with a need for workers are high-turnover fields; that is, positions are regularly refilled. As a result, large numbers of job vacancies may or may not reflect a shortage of qualified, interested workers. A better indicator of hiring difficulty is the length of time that vacant positions remain open.

- In the Central region, healthcare practitioner and technical occupations appear to have the greatest backlog of long-open and "always open" positions.
- Most job vacancies in education, training and library; and building, grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations are open for only a short period of time. Employers fill these positions fairly quickly with available workers.
- Across all fields, 63 percent of job vacancies in the Central region have been open less than 60 days; 13 percent have been open 60 days or longer; and 24 percent are "always open," according to employers.

Duration of Job Vacancies in Occupations with over 100 Job Vacancies in the Central Region



This brochure is a summary of the latest job vacancy survey information for the Central region in Minnesota. Similar brochures are available for eight other regions of Minnesota.

These regional brochures, the full report and a complete discussion of the *Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey* methodology are available on the Internet at www.mnwfc.org/lmi/public.htm

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Please specify the area and report you want and fax your name, address and phone number to 651.282.5429 or write to:

Minnesota Department of Economic Security, Research and Statistics Office, 390 N. Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101

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NORTHEAST REGION



Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey Regional Spotlight



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Minnesota Department
of Economic Security

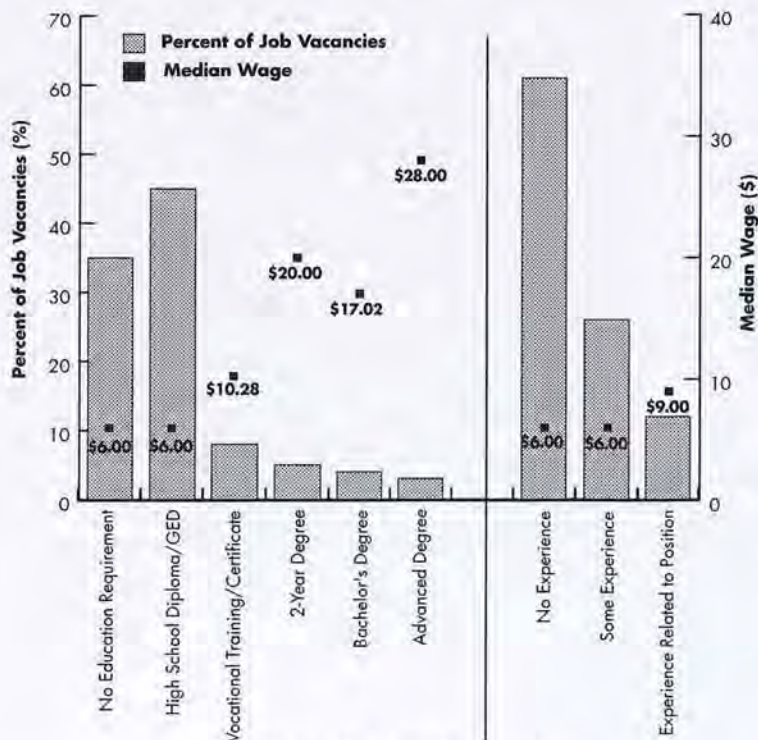
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The Northeast region has a job vacancy level of 5,215—or 3.7 job vacancies for every 100 filled jobs. That is lower than the area unemployment rate during the same quarter. Some jobseekers will have difficulty finding appropriate work opportunities.

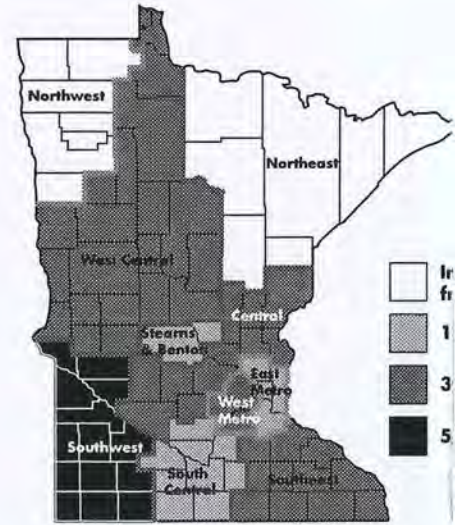
Education and Experience Requirements and Median Wage Offers in the Northeast Region



Education and Experience Requirements

Statewide, job vacancies are down 31 percent from the previous year (4th Quarter 2001). Where demand remains, the time required to recruit and hire qualified candidates has been reduced.

- Job vacancies decreased 51 percent in the Southwest region, 48 percent in the Central region, and 44 percent West Central region.
- The Northeast and Northwest regions were the only areas where hiring demand increased from one year ago (up 33 percent and 12 percent respectively).
- Slightly more than half of the state's openings are in the Twin Cities metro area.



Job Vacancies by Region

Major Occupational Group	Minnesota		Central		East Metro		NORTHEAST	
	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)
Sales and Related	8,258	2.8%	197	1.4%	2,372	3.1%	1,780	12.5%
Office and Administrative Support	6,678	1.5	364	2.0	2,656	2.5	552	2.2
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Life, Physical and Social Science	378	1.6	NR	NR	100	1.3	9	0.6
Farming, Fishing and Forestry	345	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Legal	78	0.5	0	NA	24	0.8	NR	NR
Total Job Vacancies	55,199	2.1%	2,583	1.8%	15,308	2.3%	5,215	3.7%

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Job Vacancies by Region: What Workers are in Demand?

In the Northeast region, the largest numbers of job vacancies are found in these sectors:

- Sales and related, 1,780 job vacancies
- Food preparation and serving, 718 job vacancies
- Office and administrative support, 552 job vacancies
- Healthcare practitioners and technical, 511 job vacancies

Increase in job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

to 30%

to 50%

50% and above

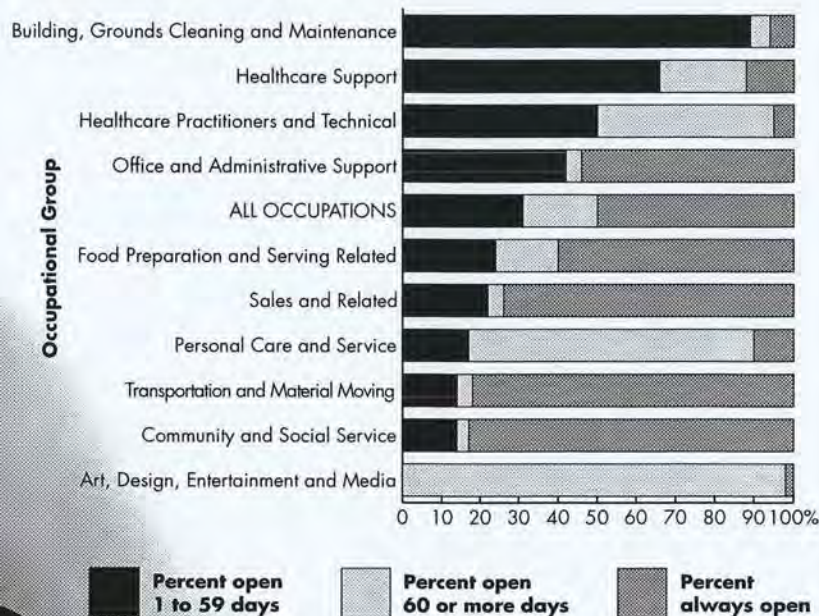
Decrease in
job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

Northwest		South Central		Southeast		Southwest		Stearns and Benton		West Central		West Metro	
Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)
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125	1.5	194	1.3	377	1.0	95	0.9	267	1.6	204	0.9	1,844	1.0
24	0.4	522	6.3	568	3.1	23	0.5	117	1.5	650	3.6	2,269	3.5
9	0.4	216	4.4	821	4.3	77	2.2	170	3.5	299	3.3	1,630	3.7
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33	3.9	3	0.2	13	NR	NR	NR	17	2.0	36	2.0	296	1.4
6	1.7	7	0.6	26	NR	NR	NR	111	10.4	9	1.1	246	0.7
37	8.6	0	NA	25	1.3	NR	NR	36	4.0	41	2.6	202	1.4
NR	NR	2	0.3	24	1.4	NR	NR	7	2.5	NR	NR	225	2.6
0	NA	37	NR	NR	NR	0	NA	0	NA	230	NR	0	NA
0	NA	0	NA	NR	NR	0	NA	3	0.8	NR	NR	47	0.4
797	1.5%	2,497	2.4%	5,511	2.4%	873	1.2%	1,627	1.8%	4,017	2.6%	16,771	1.8%

Some of the fields with a need for workers are high-turnover fields; that is, positions are regularly refilled. As a result, large numbers of job vacancies may or may not reflect a shortage of qualified, interested workers. A better indicator of hiring difficulty is the length of time that vacant positions remain open.

- In the Northeast region, art, design, entertainment and media, community and social service, and transportation and material moving occupations appear to have the greatest backlog of long-open and "always open" positions.
- Most job vacancies in building, grounds cleaning, and maintenance; and healthcare support occupations are open for only a short period of time. Employers fill these positions fairly quickly with available workers.
- Across all fields, 31 percent of job vacancies in the Northeast region have been open less than 60 days; 19 percent have been open 60 days or longer; and 50 percent are "always open," according to employers.

Duration of Job Vacancies in Occupations with over 100 Job Vacancies in the Northeast Region



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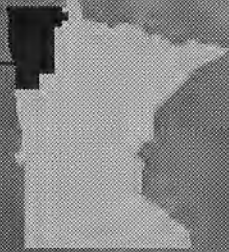
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NORTHWEST REGION



Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey Regional Spotlight



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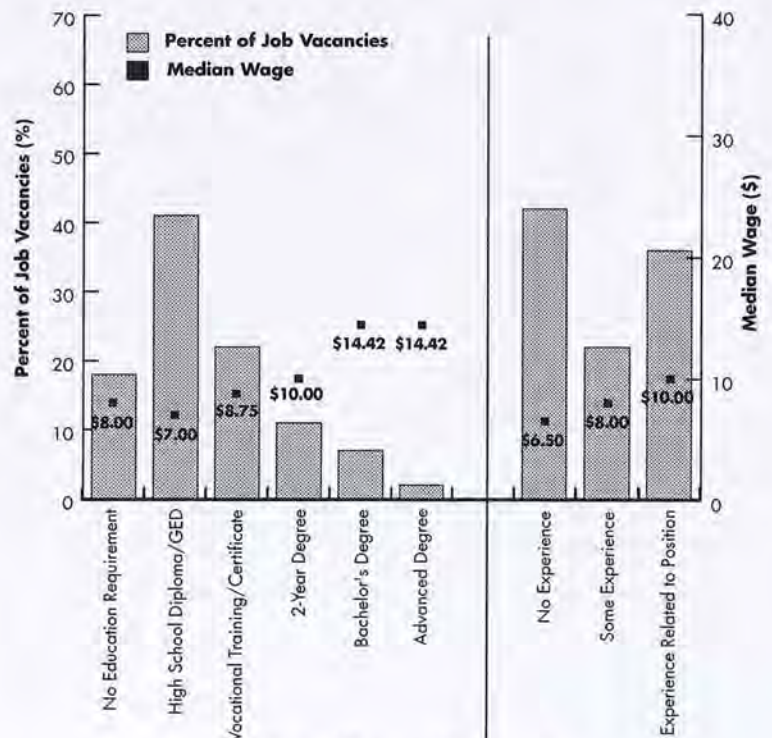
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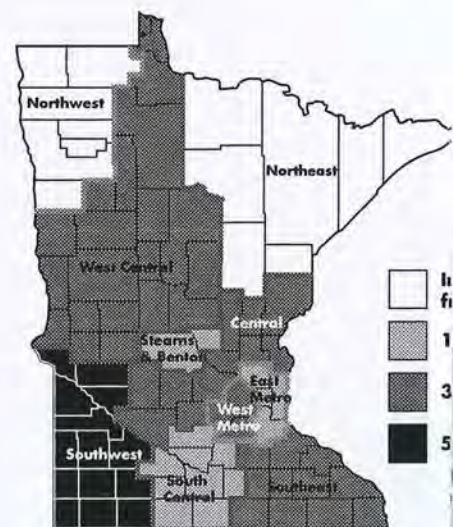
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In the Northwest region, the largest numbers of job vacancies are found in these sectors:

- Office and administrative support, 125 job vacancies
- Personal care and service, 117 job vacancies
- Installation, maintenance and repair, 101 job vacancies
- Production, 99 job vacancies

Increase in job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

to 30%

to 50%

50% and above

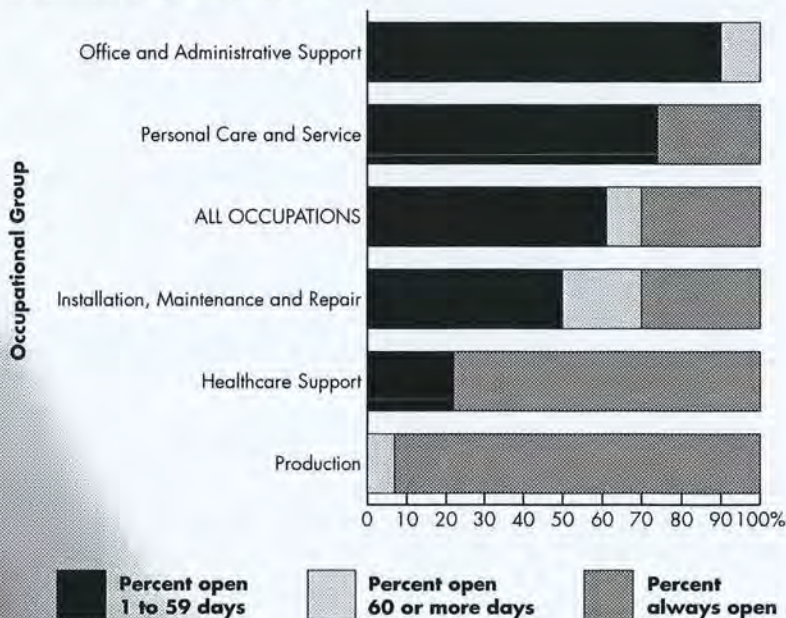
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NR	NR	200	2.1%	993	4.4%	56	0.8%	145	1.3%	419	2.4%	2,060	1.9%
125	1.5	194	1.3	377	1.0	95	0.9	267	1.6	204	0.9	1,844	1.0
24	0.4	522	6.3	568	3.1	23	0.5	117	1.5	650	3.6	2,269	3.5
9	0.4	216	4.4	821	4.3	77	2.2	170	3.5	299	3.3	1,630	3.7
NR	NR	384	4.9	1,199	NR	30	0.4	195	2.6	271	2.7	1,336	2.5
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0	NA	37	NR	NR	NR	0	NA	0	NA	230	NR	0	NA
0	NA	0	NA	NR	NR	0	NA	3	0.8	NR	NR	47	0.4
797	1.5%	2,497	2.4%	5,511	2.4%	873	1.2%	1,627	1.8%	4,017	2.6%	16,771	1.8%

Some of the fields with a need for workers are high-turnover fields; that is, positions are regularly refilled. As a result, large numbers of job vacancies may or may not reflect a shortage of qualified, interested workers. A better indicator of hiring difficulty is the length of time that vacant positions remain open.

- In the Northwest region, production and healthcare support occupations appear to have the greatest backlog of long-open and "always open" positions.
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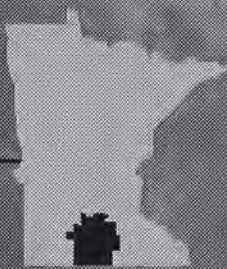
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Stock Room # ES-03986-04

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION



Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey Regional Spotlight



Research and Statistics Office

Minnesota Department
of Economic Security

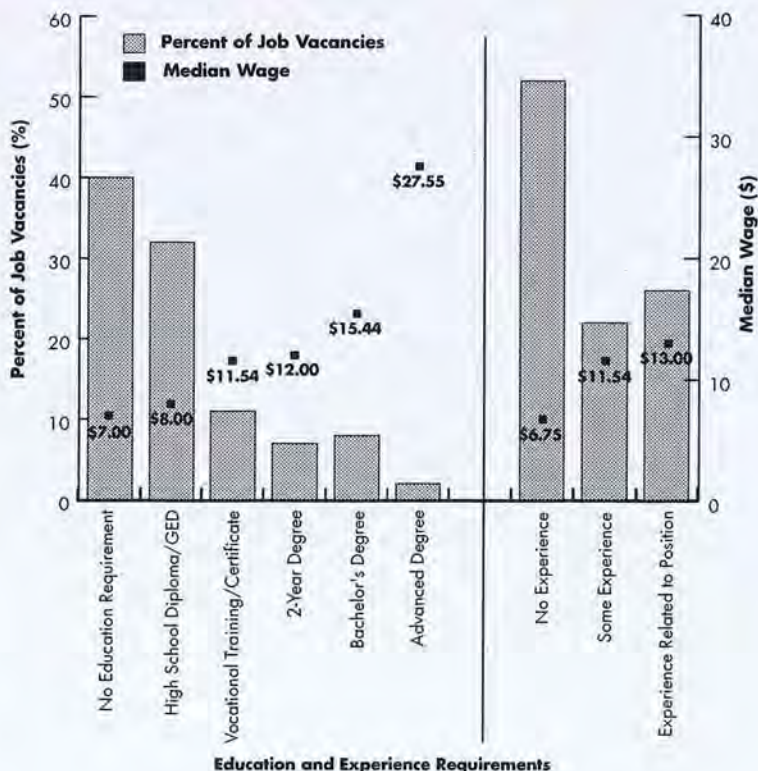
January 2003

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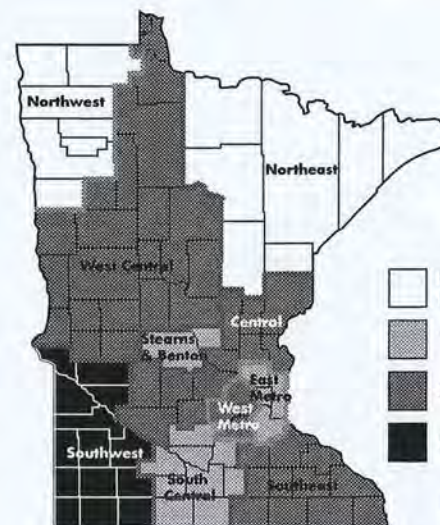
The South Central region has a job vacancy level of 2,497— or 2.4 job vacancies for every 100 filled jobs. That is lower than the area unemployment rate during the same quarter. Some jobseekers will have difficulty finding appropriate work opportunities.

Education and Experience Requirements and Median Wage Offers in the South Central Region



Statewide, job vacancies are down 31 percent from the previous year (4th Quarter 2001). Where demand remains, the time required to recruit and hire qualified candidates has been reduced.

- Job vacancies decreased 51 percent in the Southwest region, 48 percent in the Central region, and 44 percent West Central region.
- The Northeast and Northwest regions were the only areas where hiring demand increased from one year ago (up 33 percent and 12 percent respectively).
- Slightly more than half of the state's openings are in the Twin Cities metro area.



Job Vacancies by Region

Major Occupational Group	Minnesota		Central		East Metro		Northeast	
	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)
Sales and Related	8,258	2.8%	197	1.4%	2,372	3.1%	1,780	12.5%
Office and Administrative Support	6,678	1.5	364	2.0	2,656	2.5	552	2.2
Food Preparation and Serving Related	6,655	3.4	248	1.5	1,516	3.6	718	5.8
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	5,959	4.5	318	5.4	1,908	6.3	511	6.0
Transportation and Material Moving	4,924	2.8	260	2.4	827	1.8	400	4.6
Personal Care and Service	3,106	4.9	91	2.2	601	4.2	397	9.8
Healthcare Support	2,913	4.1	241	4.3	704	4.4	150	2.8
Production	2,418	1.0	193	1.1	779	1.2	50	0.5
Education, Training and Library	2,192	1.5	232	2.2	383	0.8	21	0.2
Construction and Extraction	1,587	1.4	NR	NR	538	1.7	34	0.5
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Management	1,368	1.1	50	0.9	502	1.6	30	0.6
Community and Social Service	1,357	3.4	69	2.1	239	2.5	140	3.9
Installation, Maintenance and Repair	1,330	1.3	23	0.4	342	1.5	13	0.2
Building, Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	1,183	1.4	121	2.3	375	1.8	172	3.1
Protective Service	950	2.0	88	2.7	348	2.8	21	0.5
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Art, Design, Entertainment and Media	619	1.9	43	5.4	81	1.0	150	8.9
Life, Physical and Social Science	378	1.6	NR	NR	100	1.3	9	0.6
Farming, Fishing and Forestry	345	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Legal	78	0.5	0	NA	24	0.8	NR	NR
Total Job Vacancies	55,199	2.1%	2,583	1.8%	15,308	2.3%	5,215	3.7%

NR= Data are not reported due to failure to meet reliability standards.
NA= Not Available

Job Vacancies by Region: What Workers are in Demand?

In the South Central region, the largest numbers of job vacancies are found in these sectors:

- Food preparation and serving, 522 job vacancies
- Transportation and material moving, 384 job vacancies
- Production, 254 job vacancies
- Healthcare practitioners and technical, 216 job vacancies

Increase in job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

to 30%

0 to 50%

0% and above

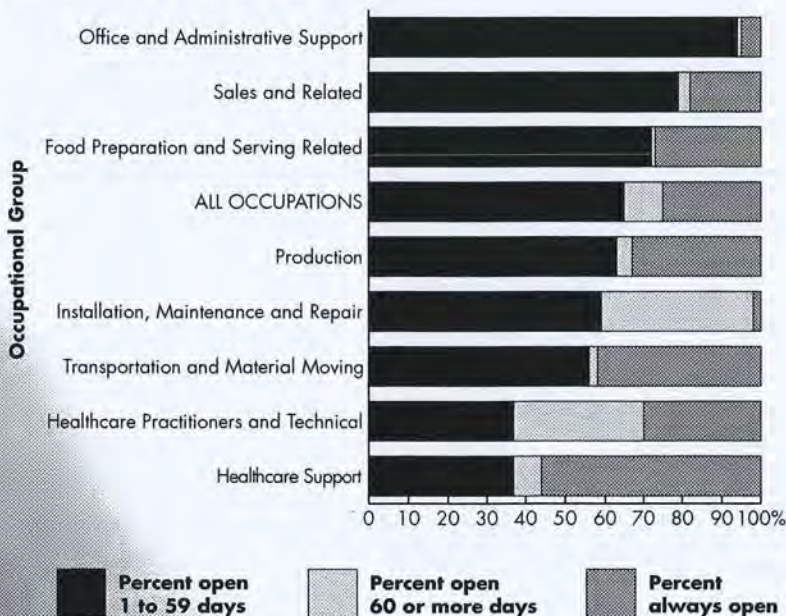
Decrease in
job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

Northwest		SOUTH CENTRAL		Southeast		Southwest		Stearns and Benton		West Central		West Metro	
Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)
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797	1.5%	2,497	2.4%	5,511	2.4%	873	1.2%	1,627	1.8%	4,017	2.6%	16,771	1.8%

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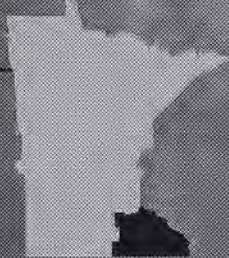
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SOUTHEAST REGION



Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey Regional Spotlight



Research and Statistics Office

Minnesota Department
of Economic Security

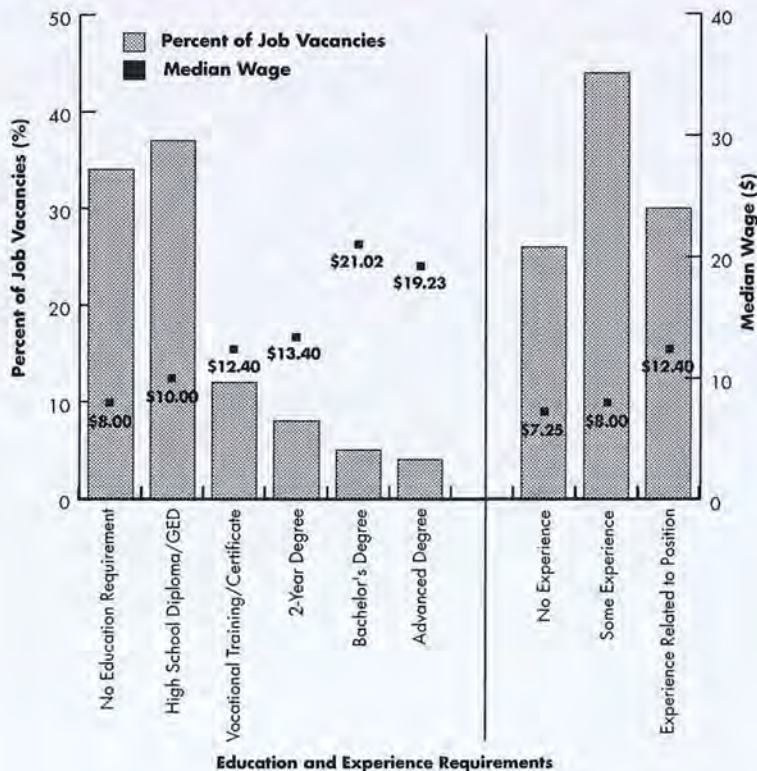
January 2003

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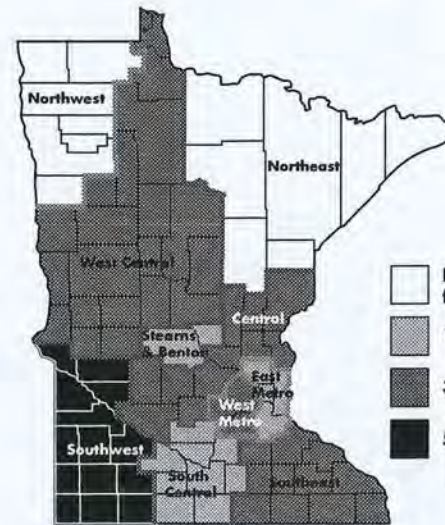
The Southeast region has a job vacancy level of 5,511—or 2.4 job vacancies for every 100 filled jobs. That is lower than the area unemployment rate during the same quarter. Some jobseekers will have difficulty finding appropriate work opportunities.

Education and Experience Requirements and Median Wage Offers in the Southeast Region



Statewide, job vacancies are down 31 percent from the previous year (4th Quarter 2001). Where demand remains, the time required to recruit and hire qualified candidates has been reduced.

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Job Vacancies by Region

Major Occupational Group	Minnesota		Central		East Metro		Northeast	
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Job Vacancies by Region: What Workers are in Demand?

In the Southeast region, the largest numbers of job vacancies are found in these sectors:

- Transportation and material moving, 1,199 job vacancies
- Sales and related, 993 job vacancies
- Healthcare practitioners and technical, 821 job vacancies
- Food preparation and serving, 568 job vacancies
- Healthcare support, 535 job vacancies

Increase in job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

to 30%

0 to 50%

50% and above

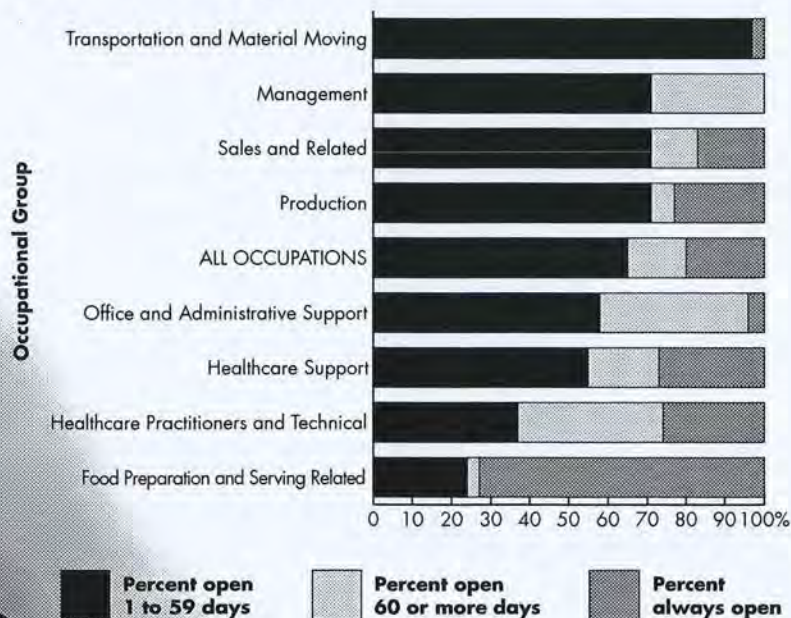
Decrease in
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SOUTHWEST REGION



Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey Regional Spotlight



Research and Statistics Office

Minnesota Department of Economic Security

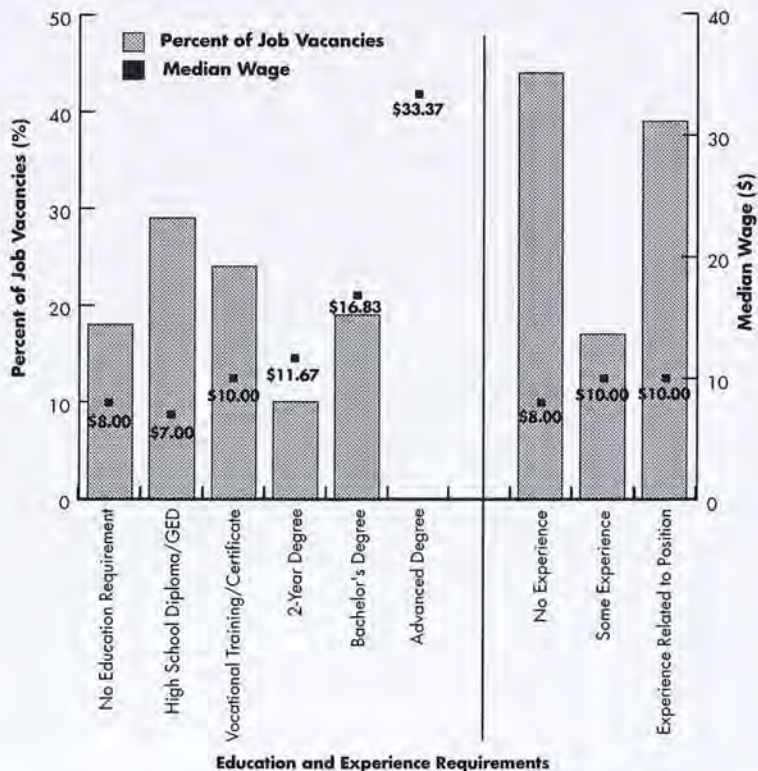
January 2003

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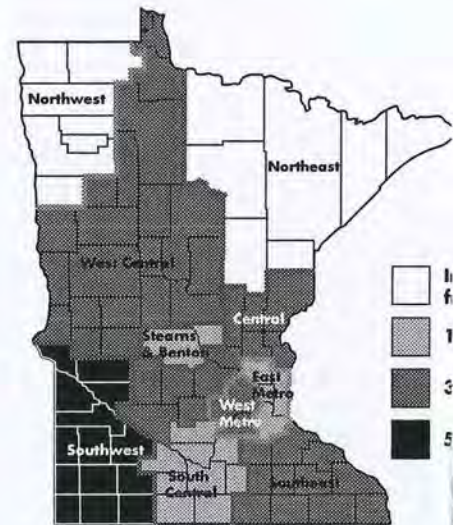
The Southwest region has a job vacancy level of 873—or 1.2 job vacancies for every 100 filled jobs. That is lower than the area unemployment rate during the same quarter. Some jobseekers will have difficulty finding appropriate work opportunities.

Education and Experience Requirements and Median Wage Offers in the Southwest Region



Statewide, job vacancies are down 31 percent from the previous year (4th Quarter 2001). Where demand remains, the time required to recruit and hire qualified candidates has been reduced.

- Job vacancies decreased 51 percent in the Southwest region, 48 percent in the Central region, and 44 percent West Central region.
- The Northeast and Northwest regions were the only areas where hiring demand increased from one year ago (up 33 percent and 12 percent respectively).
- Slightly more than half of the state's openings are in the Twin Cities metro area.



Job Vacancies by Region

Major Occupational Group	Minnesota		Central		East Metro		Northeast	
	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)
Sales and Related	8,258	2.8%	197	1.4%	2,372	3.1%	1,780	12.5%
Office and Administrative Support	6,678	1.5	364	2.0	2,656	2.5	552	2.2
Food Preparation and Serving Related	6,655	3.4	248	1.5	1,516	3.6	718	5.8
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	5,959	4.5	318	5.4	1,908	6.3	511	6.0
Transportation and Material Moving	4,924	2.8	260	2.4	827	1.8	400	4.6
Personal Care and Service	3,106	4.9	91	2.2	601	4.2	397	9.8
Healthcare Support	2,913	4.1	241	4.3	704	4.4	150	2.8
Production	2,418	1.0	193	1.1	779	1.2	50	0.5
Education, Training and Library	2,192	1.5	232	2.2	383	0.8	21	0.2
Construction and Extraction	1,587	1.4	NR	NR	538	1.7	34	0.5
Business and Financial Operations	1,552	1.3	7	0.2	560	1.7	33	0.8
Management	1,368	1.1	50	0.9	502	1.6	30	0.6
Community and Social Service	1,357	3.4	69	2.1	239	2.5	140	3.9
Installation, Maintenance and Repair	1,330	1.3	23	0.4	342	1.5	13	0.2
Building, Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	1,183	1.4	121	2.3	375	1.8	172	3.1
Protective Service	950	2.0	88	2.7	348	2.8	21	0.5
Architecture and Engineering	725	1.4	12	0.5	264	1.6	19	1.1
Computer and Mathematical	624	0.9	8	1.0	187	1.0	12	1.1
Art, Design, Entertainment and Media	619	1.9	43	5.4	81	1.0	150	8.9
Life, Physical and Social Science	378	1.6	NR	NR	100	1.3	9	0.6
Farming, Fishing and Forestry	345	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Legal	78	0.5	0	NA	24	0.8	NR	NR
Total Job Vacancies	55,199	2.1%	2,583	1.8%	15,308	2.3%	5,215	3.7%

NR= Data are not reported due to failure to meet reliability standards.
NA= Not Available

Job Vacancies by Region: What Workers are in Demand?

In the Southwest region, the largest numbers of job vacancies are found in these sectors:

- Healthcare support, 124 job vacancies
- Office and administrative support, 95 job vacancies
- Business and financial operations, 90 job vacancies
- Community and social services, 79 job vacancies
- Healthcare practitioners and technical, 77 job vacancies

Increase in job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

to 30%

to 50%

50% and above

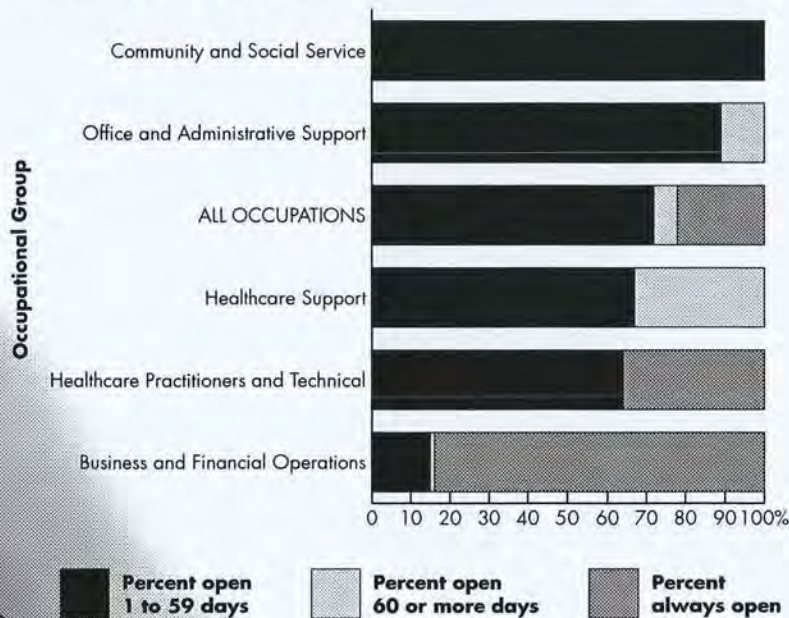
Decrease in
job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

Northwest		South Central		Southeast		SOUTHWEST		Stearns and Benton		West Central		West Metro	
Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)
NR	NR	200	2.1%	993	4.4%	56	0.8%	145	1.3%	419	2.4%	2,060	1.9%
125	1.5	194	1.3	377	1.0	95	0.9	267	1.6	204	0.9	1,844	1.0
24	0.4	522	6.3	568	3.1	23	0.5	117	1.5	650	3.6	2,269	3.5
9	0.4	216	4.4	821	4.3	77	2.2	170	3.5	299	3.3	1,630	3.7
NR	NR	384	4.9	1,199	NR	30	0.4	195	2.6	271	2.7	1,336	2.5
117	10.6	14	0.6	17	0.3	NR	NR	72	4.6	133	3.6	1,659	6.6
52	2.3	204	5.9	535	7.0	124	3.9	60	2.9	185	3.3	658	3.2
99	1.7	254	1.8	407	1.4	58	0.6	42	0.4	167	1.1	369	0.5
44	1.1	91	1.0	90	0.7	41	0.7	26	0.4	609	6.2	655	1.9
NR	NR	23	0.5	3	0.0	32	0.9	0	NA	380	4.7	567	1.6
29	2.0	24	0.9	60	0.9	90	4.5	18	0.6	60	1.8	671	1.2
11	0.5	26	0.6	105	1.2	21	0.7	32	0.9	29	0.5	562	1.0
NR	NR	68	5.1	53	1.5	79	6.4	36	2.9	127	3.6	516	4.4
101	4.7	127	3.4	24	0.3	NR	NR	249	6.7	108	1.6	297	0.8
14	0.7	52	1.3	61	0.9	47	1.8	19	0.6	51	0.8	271	1.0
0	NA	49	2.3	42	1.4	0	NA	5	0.5	6	0.2	391	2.9
33	3.9	3	0.2	13	NR	NR	NR	17	2.0	36	2.0	296	1.4
6	1.7	7	0.6	26	NR	NR	NR	111	10.4	9	1.1	246	0.7
37	8.6	0	NA	25	1.3	NR	NR	36	4.0	41	2.6	202	1.4
NR	NR	2	0.3	24	1.4	NR	NR	7	2.5	NR	NR	225	2.6
0	NA	37	NR	NR	NR	0	NA	0	NA	230	NR	0	NA
0	NA	0	NA	NR	NR	0	NA	3	0.8	NR	NR	47	0.4
797	1.5%	2,497	2.4%	5,511	2.4%	873	1.2%	1,627	1.8%	4,017	2.6%	16,771	1.8%

Some of the fields with a need for workers are high-turnover fields; that is, positions are regularly refilled. As a result, large numbers of job vacancies may or may not reflect a shortage of qualified, interested workers. A better indicator of hiring difficulty is the length of time that vacant positions remain open.

- In the Southwest region, business and financial operations occupations appear to have the greatest backlog of long-open and "always open" positions.
- Most job vacancies in community and social service and office and administrative support occupations are open for only a short period of time. Employers fill these positions fairly quickly with available workers.
- Across all fields, 72 percent of job vacancies in the Southwest region have been open less than 60 days; 6 percent have been open 60 days or longer; and 22 percent are "always open," according to employers.

Duration of Job Vacancies in Occupations with over 50 Job Vacancies in the Southwest Region



This brochure is a summary of the latest job vacancy survey information for the Southwest region in Minnesota. Similar brochures are available for eight other regions of Minnesota.

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or send e-mail to: mdes.pubs@state.mn.us

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STEARNS AND BENTON COUNTIES



Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey Regional Spotlight



Research and Statistics Office

Minnesota Department of Economic Security

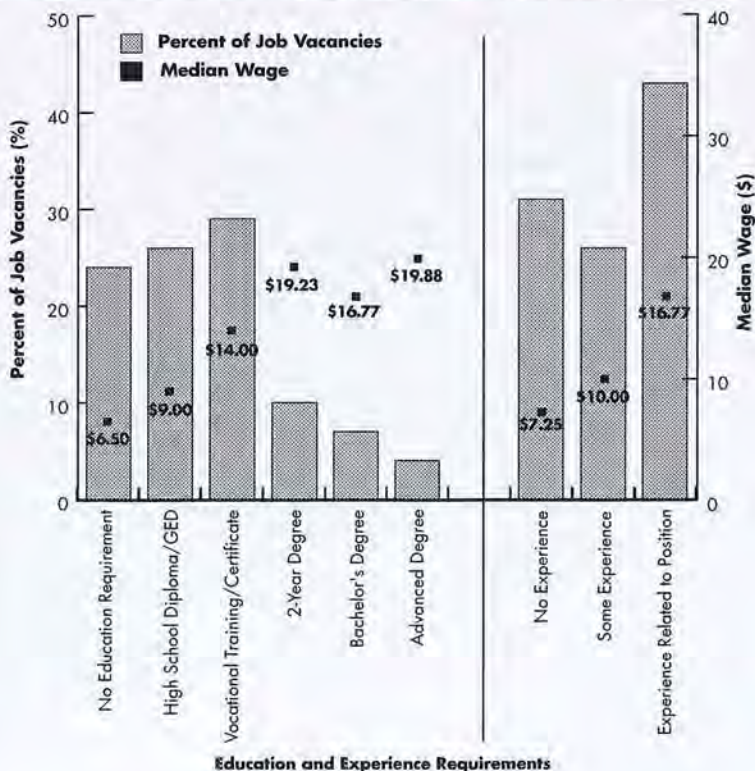
January 2003

As the recession of 2001 has continued, employers have cut back on business expansion plans, recruitment and hiring. Still, many job opportunities remain. Minnesota job-seekers want to know: who's hiring—and in what fields of work?

The *Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey* is a tool to assess current job market demand. During 4th Quarter 2002, the Minnesota Department of Economic Security (MDES) surveyed a representative sample of employers from all major industries and regions of the state. From their information, MDES estimates that there are 55,200 job vacancies statewide.

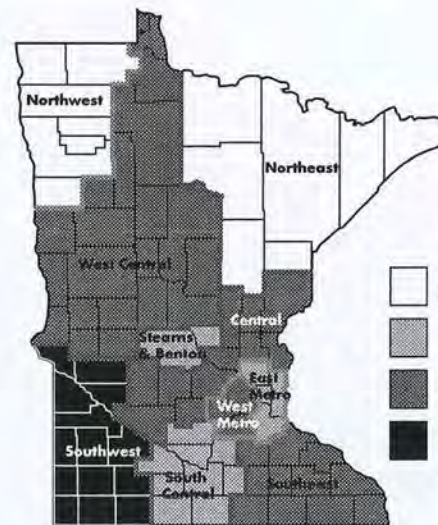
The Stearns-Benton area has a job vacancy level of 1,627— or 1.8 job vacancies for every 100 filled jobs. That is lower than the area unemployment rate during the same quarter. Some jobseekers will have difficulty finding appropriate work opportunities.

Education and Experience Requirements and Median Wage Offers in Stearns and Benton Counties



Statewide, job vacancies are down 31 percent from the previous year (4th Quarter 2001). Where demand remains, the time required to recruit and hire qualified candidates has been reduced.

- Job vacancies decreased 51 percent in the Southwest region, 48 percent in the Central region, and 44 percent West Central region.
- The Northeast and Northwest regions were region was the only areas where hiring demand increased from one year ago (up 33 percent and 12 percent respectively).
- Slightly more than half of the state's openings are in the Twin Cities metro area.



Job Vacancies by Region

Major Occupational Group	Minnesota		Central		East Metro		Northeast	
	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)
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Business and Financial Operations	1,552	1.3	7	0.2	560	1.7	33	0.8
Management	1,368	1.1	50	0.9	502	1.6	30	0.6
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Architecture and Engineering	725	1.4	12	0.5	264	1.6	19	1.1
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Art, Design, Entertainment and Media	619	1.9	43	5.4	81	1.0	150	8.9
Life, Physical and Social Science	378	1.6	NR	NR	100	1.3	9	0.6
Farming, Fishing and Forestry	345	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Legal	78	0.5	0	NA	24	0.8	NR	NR
Total Job Vacancies	55,199	2.1%	2,583	1.8%	15,308	2.3%	5,215	3.7%

NR= Data are not reported due to failure to meet reliability standards.
NA= Not Available

Job Vacancies by Region: What Workers are in Demand?

In Stearns and Benton counties, the largest numbers of job vacancies are found in these sectors:

- Office and administrative support, 267 job vacancies
- Installation, maintenance and repair, 249 job vacancies
- Transportation and material moving, 195 job vacancies
- Healthcare practitioners and technical, 170 job vacancies

Increase in job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

to 30%

0 to 50%

0% and above

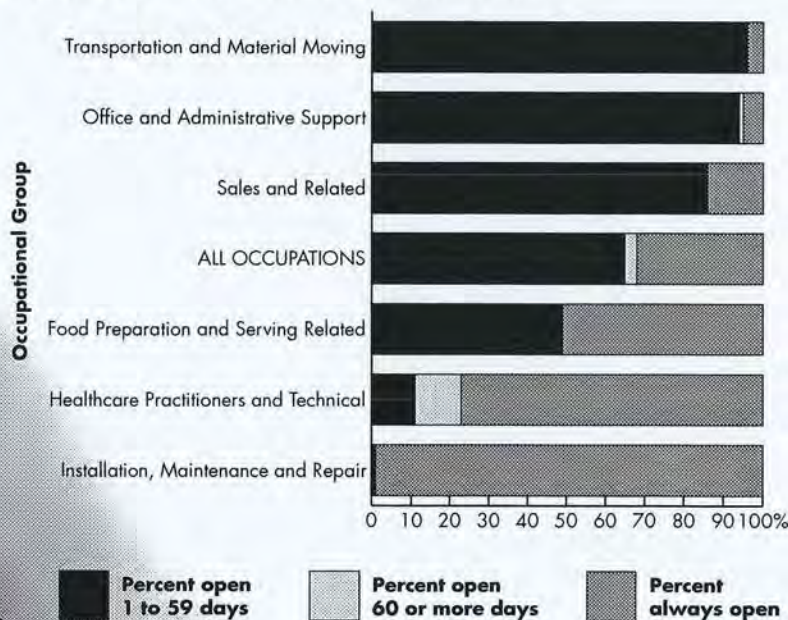
Decrease in
job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

Northwest		South Central		Southeast		Southwest		STEARNS AND BENTON		West Central		West Metro	
Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)
NR	NR	200	2.1%	993	4.4%	56	0.8%	145	1.3%	419	2.4%	2,060	1.9%
125	1.5	194	1.3	377	1.0	95	0.9	267	1.6	204	0.9	1,844	1.0
24	0.4	522	6.3	568	3.1	23	0.5	117	1.5	650	3.6	2,269	3.5
9	0.4	216	4.4	821	4.3	77	2.2	170	3.5	299	3.3	1,630	3.7
NR	NR	384	4.9	1,199	NR	30	0.4	195	2.6	271	2.7	1,336	2.5
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44	1.1	91	1.0	90	0.7	41	0.7	26	0.4	609	6.2	655	1.9
NR	NR	23	0.5	3	0.0	32	0.9	0	NA	380	4.7	567	1.6
29	2.0	24	0.9	60	0.9	90	4.5	18	0.6	60	1.8	671	1.2
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33	3.9	3	0.2	13	NR	NR	NR	17	2.0	36	2.0	296	1.4
6	1.7	7	0.6	26	NR	NR	NR	111	10.4	9	1.1	246	0.7
37	8.6	0	NA	25	1.3	NR	NR	36	4.0	41	2.6	202	1.4
NR	NR	2	0.3	24	1.4	NR	NR	7	2.5	NR	NR	225	2.6
0	NA	37	NR	NR	NR	0	NA	0	NA	230	NR	0	NA
0	NA	0	NA	NR	NR	0	NA	3	0.8	NR	NR	47	0.4
797	1.5%	2,497	2.4%	5,511	2.4%	873	1.2%	1,627	1.8%	4,017	2.6%	16,771	1.8%

Some of the fields with a need for workers are high-turnover fields; that is, positions are regularly refilled. As a result, large numbers of job vacancies may or may not reflect a shortage of qualified, interested workers. A better indicator of hiring difficulty is the length of time that vacant positions remain open.

- In the Stearns-Benton area, installation, maintenance and repair and healthcare practitioners and technical occupations appear to have the greatest backlog of long-open and "always open" positions.
- Most job vacancies in transportation and material moving and office and administrative support occupations are open for only a short period of time. Employers fill these positions fairly quickly with available workers.
- Across all fields, 65 percent of job vacancies in the Stearns-Benton area have been open less than 60 days; 3 percent have been open 60 days or longer; and 32 percent are "always open," according to employers.

Duration of Job Vacancies in Occupations with over 100 Job Vacancies in the Stearns and Benton Counties



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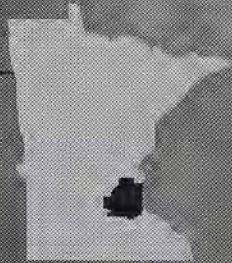
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TWIN CITIES REGION



Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey Regional Spotlight



Research and Statistics Office

Minnesota Department of Economic Security

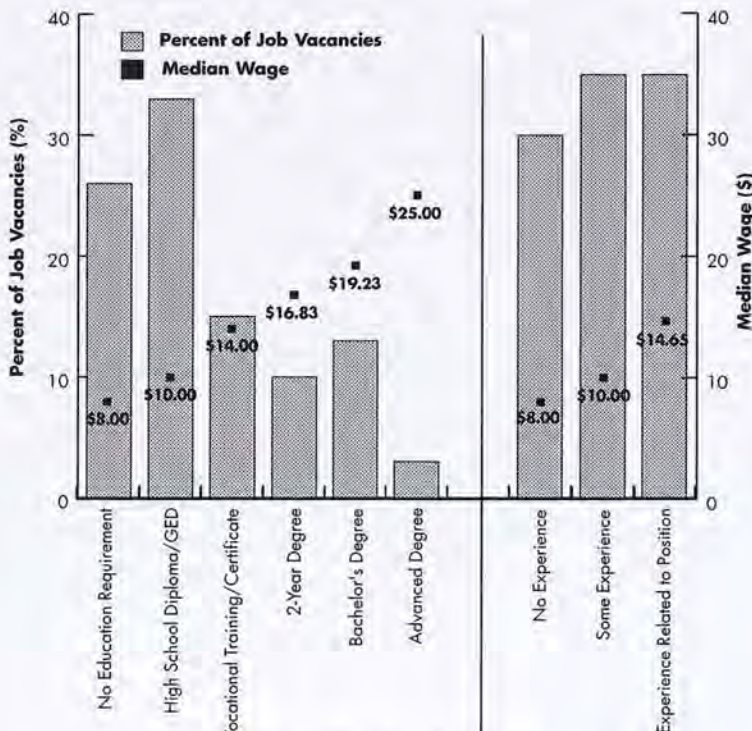
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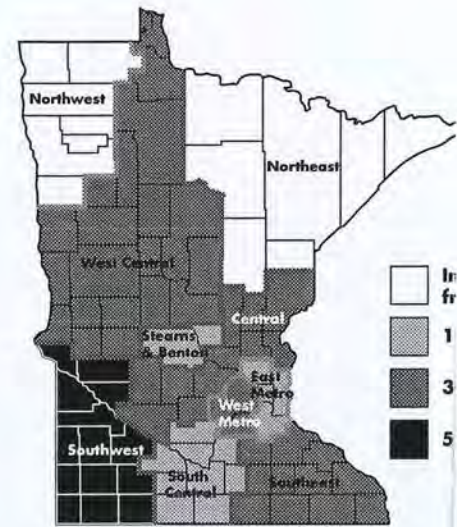
Education and Experience Requirements and Median Wage Offers in the Twin Cities Region



Education and Experience Requirements

Statewide, job vacancies are down 31 percent from the previous year (4th Quarter 2001). Where demand remains, the time required to recruit and hire qualified candidates has been reduced.

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- Slightly more than half of the state's openings are in the Twin Cities metro area.



Job Vacancies by Region

Major Occupational Group	Minnesota		Central		East Metro		Northeast	
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Art, Design, Entertainment and Media	619	1.9	43	5.4	81	1.0	150	8.9
Life, Physical and Social Science	378	1.6	NR	NR	100	1.3	9	0.6
Farming, Fishing and Forestry	345	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Legal	78	0.5	0	NA	24	0.8	NR	NR
Total Job Vacancies	55,199	2.1%	2,583	1.8%	15,308	2.3%	5,215	3.7%

NR= Data are not reported due to failure to meet reliability standards.
NA= Not Available

Job Vacancies by Region: What Workers are in Demand?

In the Twin Cities region, the largest numbers of job vacancies are found in these sectors:

- Office and administrative support 4,500 job vacancies
- Sales and related, 4,432 job vacancies
- Food preparation and serving related, 3,785
- Healthcare practitioners and technical, 3,538 job vacancies

Increase in job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

to 30%

to 50%

50% and above

Decrease in
job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

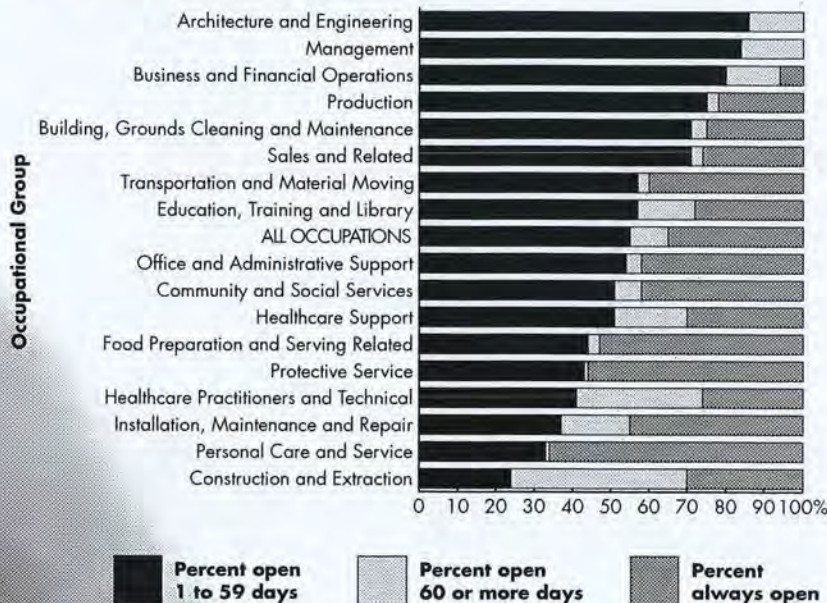
Note: Twin Cities includes both East Metro and West Metro.

Northwest		South Central		Southeast		Southwest		Stearns and Benton		WEST CENTRAL		WEST METRO	
Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)
NR	NR	200	2.1%	993	4.4%	56	0.8%	145	1.3%	419	2.4%	2,060	1.9%
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44	1.1	91	1.0	90	0.7	41	0.7	26	0.4	609	6.2	655	1.9
NR	NR	23	0.5	3	0.0	32	0.9	0	NA	380	4.7	567	1.6
29	2.0	24	0.9	60	0.9	90	4.5	18	0.6	60	1.8	671	1.2
11	0.5	26	0.6	105	1.2	21	0.7	32	0.9	29	0.5	562	1.0
NR	NR	68	5.1	53	1.5	79	6.4	36	2.9	127	3.6	516	4.4
101	4.7	127	3.4	24	0.3	NR	NR	249	6.7	108	1.6	297	0.8
14	0.7	52	1.3	61	0.9	47	1.8	19	0.6	51	0.8	271	1.0
0	NA	49	2.3	42	1.4	0	NA	5	0.5	6	0.2	391	2.9
33	3.9	3	0.2	13	NR	NR	NR	17	2.0	36	2.0	296	1.4
6	1.7	7	0.6	26	NR	NR	NR	111	10.4	9	1.1	246	0.7
37	8.6	0	NA	25	1.3	NR	NR	36	4.0	41	2.6	202	1.4
NR	NR	2	0.3	24	1.4	NR	NR	7	2.5	NR	NR	225	2.6
0	NA	37	NR	NR	NR	0	NA	0	NA	230	NR	0	NA
0	NA	0	NA	NR	NR	0	NA	3	0.8	NR	NR	47	0.4
797	1.5%	2,497	2.4%	5,511	2.4%	873	1.2%	1,627	1.8%	4,017	2.6%	16,771	1.8%

Some of the fields with a need for workers are high-turnover fields; that is, positions are regularly refilled. As a result, large numbers of job vacancies may or may not reflect a shortage of qualified, interested workers. A better indicator of hiring difficulty is the length of time that vacant positions remain open.

- In the Twin Cities region, construction and personal care and service occupations appear to have the greatest backlog of long-open and "always open" positions.
- Most job vacancies in architecture and engineering, management, and business and financial occupations are open for only a short period of time. Employers fill these positions fairly quickly with available workers.
- Across all fields, 55 percent of job vacancies in the Twin Cities region have been open less than 60 days; 10 percent have been open 60 days or longer; and 35 percent are "always open," according to employers.

Duration of Job Vacancies in Occupations with over 500 Job Vacancies in the Twin Cities Region



This brochure is a summary of the latest job vacancy survey information for the Twin Cities region in Minnesota. Similar brochures are available for eight other regions of Minnesota.

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Minnesota Department of Economic Security, Research and Statistics Office, 390 N. Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101

or send e-mail to: mdes.pubs@state.mn.us

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WEST CENTRAL REGION



Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey Regional Spotlight



Research and Statistics Office

Minnesota Department
of Economic Security

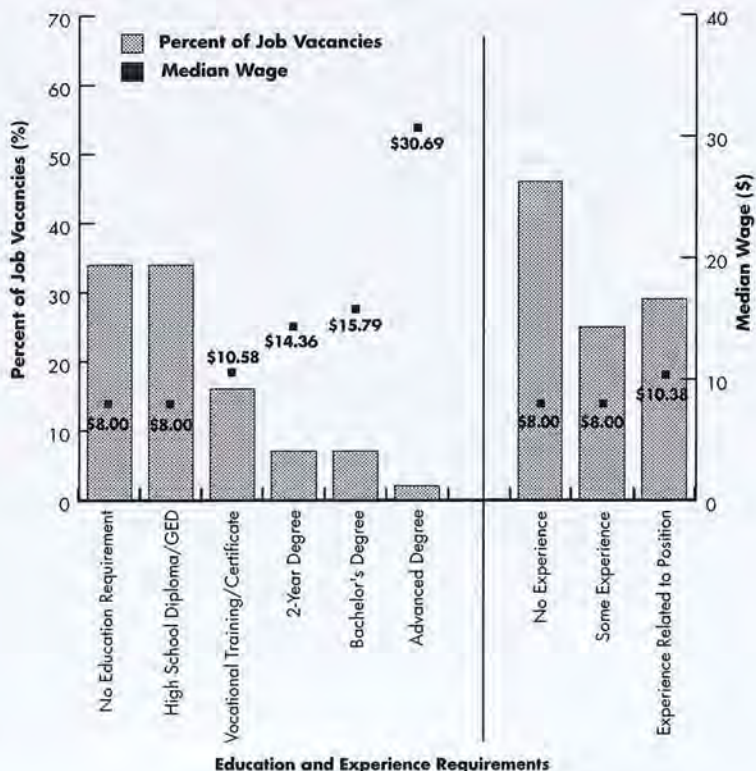
January 2003

As the recession of 2001 has continued, employers have cut back on business expansion plans, recruitment and hiring. Still, many job opportunities remain. Minnesota job-seekers want to know: who's hiring—and in what fields of work?

The *Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey* is a tool to assess current job market demand. During 4th Quarter 2002, the Minnesota Department of Economic Security (MDES) surveyed a representative sample of employers from all major industries and regions of the state. From their information, MDES estimates that there are 55,200 job vacancies statewide.

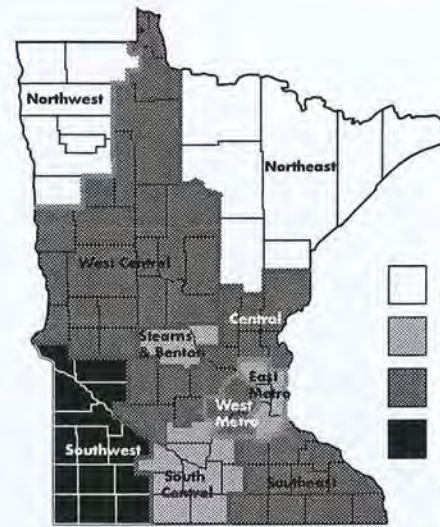
The West Central region has a job vacancy level of 4,017— or 2.6 job vacancies for every 100 filled jobs. That is lower than the area unemployment rate during the same quarter. Some jobseekers will have difficulty finding appropriate work opportunities.

Education and Experience Requirements and Median Wage Offers in the West Central Region



Statewide, job vacancies are down 31 percent from the previous year (4th Quarter 2001). Where demand remains, the time required to recruit and hire qualified candidates has been reduced.

- Job vacancies decreased 51 percent in the Southwest region, 48 percent in the Central region, and 44 percent West Central region.
- The Northeast and Northwest regions were region was the only areas where hiring demand increased from one year ago (up 33 percent and 12 percent respectively).
- Slightly more than half of the state's openings are in the Twin Cities metro area.



Job Vacancies by Region

Major Occupational Group	Minnesota		Central		East Metro		Northeast	
	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)
Sales and Related	8,258	2.8%	197	1.4%	2,372	3.1%	1,780	12.5%
Office and Administrative Support	6,678	1.5	364	2.0	2,656	2.5	552	2.2
Food Preparation and Serving Related	6,655	3.4	248	1.5	1,516	3.6	718	5.8
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	5,959	4.5	318	5.4	1,908	6.3	511	6.0
Transportation and Material Moving	4,924	2.8	260	2.4	827	1.8	400	4.6
Personal Care and Service	3,106	4.9	91	2.2	601	4.2	397	9.8
Healthcare Support	2,913	4.1	241	4.3	704	4.4	150	2.8
Production	2,418	1.0	193	1.1	779	1.2	50	0.5
Education, Training and Library	2,192	1.5	232	2.2	383	0.8	21	0.2
Construction and Extraction	1,587	1.4	NR	NR	538	1.7	34	0.5
Business and Financial Operations	1,552	1.3	7	0.2	560	1.7	33	0.8
Management	1,368	1.1	50	0.9	502	1.6	30	0.6
Community and Social Service	1,357	3.4	69	2.1	239	2.5	140	3.9
Installation, Maintenance and Repair	1,330	1.3	23	0.4	342	1.5	13	0.2
Building, Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	1,183	1.4	121	2.3	375	1.8	172	3.1
Protective Service	950	2.0	88	2.7	348	2.8	21	0.5
Architecture and Engineering	725	1.4	12	0.5	264	1.6	19	1.1
Computer and Mathematical	624	0.9	8	1.0	187	1.0	12	1.1
Art, Design, Entertainment and Media	619	1.9	43	5.4	81	1.0	150	8.9
Life, Physical and Social Science	378	1.6	NR	NR	100	1.3	9	0.6
Farming, Fishing and Forestry	345	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Legal	78	0.5	0	NA	24	0.8	NR	NR
Total Job Vacancies	55,199	2.1%	2,583	1.8%	15,308	2.3%	5,215	3.7%

NR= Data are not reported due to failure to meet reliability standards.
NA= Not Available

Job Vacancies by Region: What Workers are in Demand?

In the West Central region, the largest numbers of job vacancies are found in these sectors:

- Food preparation and serving, 650 job vacancies
- Education, training and library, 609 job vacancies
- Sales and related, 419 job vacancies
- Construction and extraction, 380 job vacancies
- Healthcare Practitioners and technical, 299 job vacancies

Increase in job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

to 30%

0 to 50%

0% and above

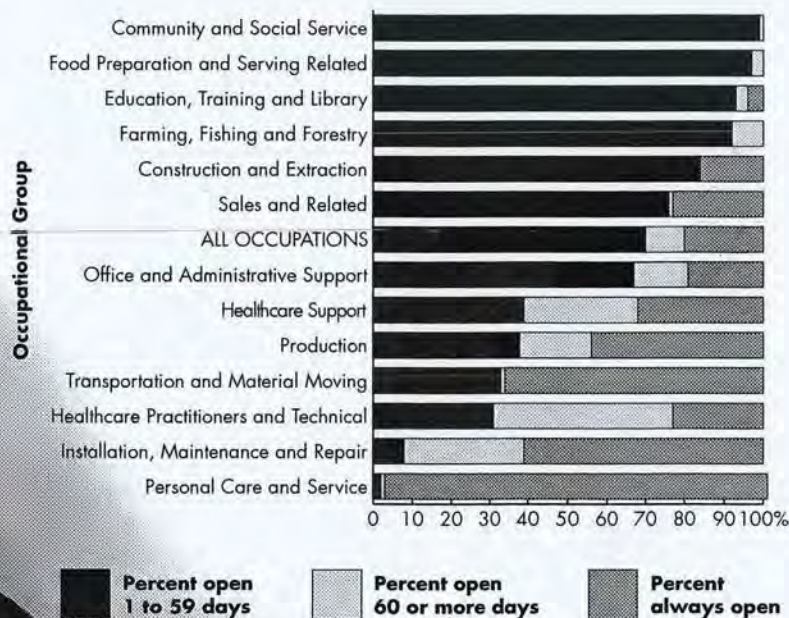
Decrease in
job vacancies
from 4th Qtr. 2001

Northwest		South Central		Southeast		Southwest		Stearns and Benton		WEST CENTRAL		West Metro	
Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)	Number of Job Vacancies	Job Vacancy Rate (%)
NR	NR	200	2.1%	993	4.4%	56	0.8%	145	1.3%	419	2.4%	2,060	1.9%
125	1.5	194	1.3	377	1.0	95	0.9	267	1.6	204	0.9	1,844	1.0
24	0.4	522	6.3	568	3.1	23	0.5	117	1.5	650	3.6	2,269	3.5
9	0.4	216	4.4	821	4.3	77	2.2	170	3.5	299	3.3	1,630	3.7
NR	NR	384	4.9	1,199	NR	30	0.4	195	2.6	271	2.7	1,336	2.5
117	10.6	14	0.6	17	0.3	NR	NR	72	4.6	133	3.6	1,659	6.6
52	2.3	204	5.9	535	7.0	124	3.9	60	2.9	185	3.3	658	3.2
99	1.7	254	1.8	407	1.4	58	0.6	42	0.4	167	1.1	369	0.5
44	1.1	91	1.0	90	0.7	41	0.7	26	0.4	609	6.2	655	1.9
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- In the West Central region, personal care and service and installation, maintenance and repair occupations appear to have the greatest backlog of long-open and "always open" positions.
- Most job vacancies in community and social service and food preparation and serving related occupations are open for only a short period of time. Employers fill these positions fairly quickly with available workers.
- Across all fields, 70 percent of job vacancies in the West Central region have been open less than 60 days; 10 percent have been open 60 days or longer; and 20 percent are "always open," according to employers.

Duration of Job Vacancies in Occupations with over 100 Job Vacancies in the West Central Region



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