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Survey Reports: Job Vacancies Requiring an Advanced Degree Pay Three Times as Much

TOPEKA — Of the estimated 52,229 job vacancies Kansas businesses reported during the second quarter of 2007, approximately 15,291 required vocational training or a higher education. This data, found in the 2007 Job Vacancy Survey, reported that jobs requiring a bachelor's degree paid more than twice as much as positions requiring a high school diploma or GED, while those requiring a master's degree or higher reportedly pay three times as much. The survey also showed that 50 percent of the positions that required an advanced degree were open for more than 30 days. According to Senior Labor Economist Inayat Noormohmad, this factor may indicate a lack of trained workers in some fields.

"In professional, high skilled or technical fields, where the average wage is competitive, a job that has been open for a longer period of time may indicate a shortage of qualified workers due to the specialized education or training required," said Noormohmad. He did note however, that "we have high demand for workers of all skill levels in Kansas."

Kansas averaged 64,173 unemployed workers during the second quarter of 2007. That's approximately 1.23 people for every open-for-hire job, indicating a labor market with a high demand for workers. The two industries with the highest demand for jobs statewide were Education and Health Services and Trade, Transportation and Utilities, accounting for over 43 percent of the total vacancies in the state.

The survey showed demand in a variety of occupations, but the Office and Administration occupations reported the largest number of openings. The majority of these vacancies were full-time permanent positions which offered some form of employee benefits.

Management occupations offer the highest starting wages while Food Preparation and Serving-Related occupations offer the lowest. The average starting minimum wage offer for positions open-for-hire was \$11.97 and the average maximum offer was \$13.80 an hour. Nearly one-third of the vacancies offered at least \$12.00 an hour.

The 2007 Edition of *Job Vacancies in Kansas* reports the findings of this year's Job Vacancy Survey. The report identifies what jobs are open and available for Kansas workers, where these jobs are located, what they pay and what kind of education they require. The survey was conducted by the Kansas Department of Labor during the second quarter of 2007.

The survey highlights the demand for workers as reported by Kansas employers across the state and in the five Local Workforce Development Areas. All data from this study is available in table format. More information from the 2007 *Job Vacancies in Kansas* report can be found at www.dol.ks.gov.

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