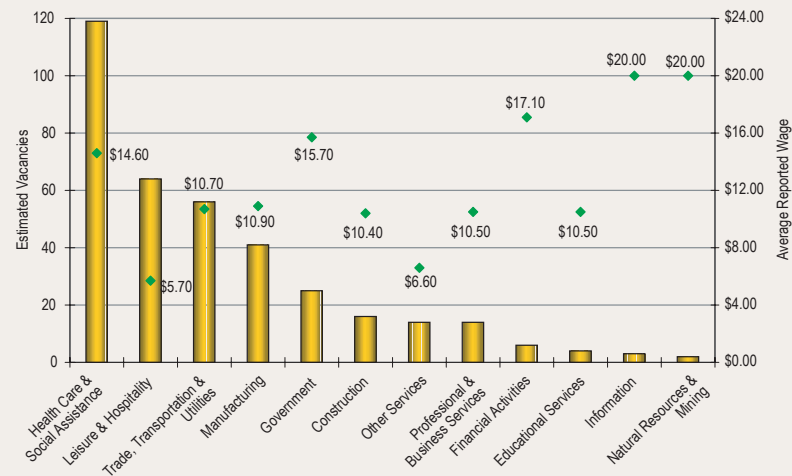
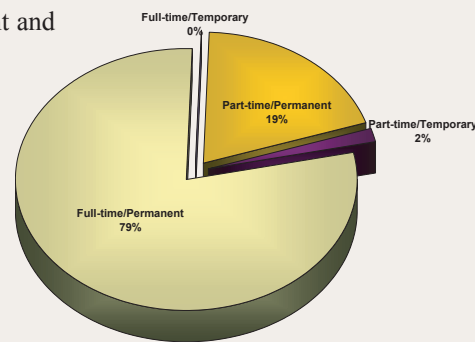


Vacancies by JVS Sectors, Status and Employer Size

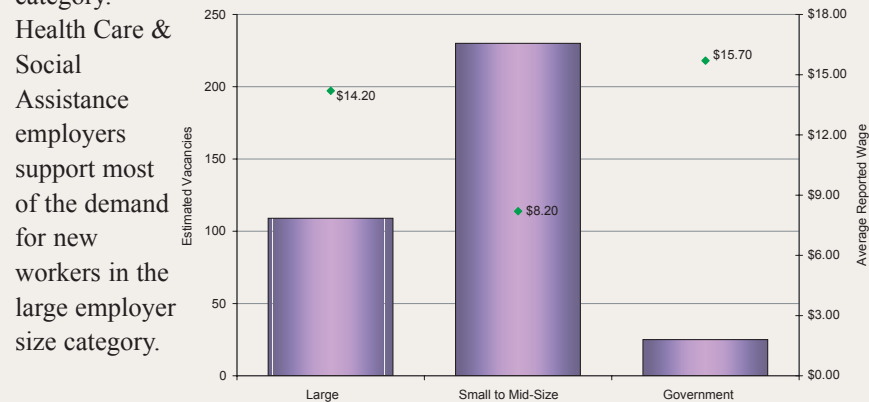
JVS Sectors: The Job Vacancy Survey is designed to reflect hiring activity by industry groups. In this survey, 33% of the estimated job openings, or 119 vacancies, are in the Healthcare & Social Assistance JVS Sector. Average wages reflect the training and skills, as well as market demand for reported job vacancies.



Status: The majority of the estimated vacancies are full-time/permanent and represent the spectrum of JVS sectors shown in the graph above. Most of the part-time/permanent vacancies are in the Leisure & Hospitality JVS sector.



Employer Size: Sixty-three percent of estimated job vacancies are with the small to mid-size businesses - those with anywhere from 5 to 99 employees. Leisure & Hospitality and Health Care & Social Assistance businesses represent most of the companies with vacancies in the small to mid-size category.



"With one of the best educated workforces in America it is critical we have Labor Market Information that helps job seekers carve out viable career paths and apply their talents in marketable fields."



Used wisely, such information can guide decisions that nurture our growing economy, and benefit the hard working people of Colorado."

—Bill Owens, Governor
State of Colorado



"Each Job Vacancy Survey brings together comprehensive information on the job openings in a particular part of the state as well as the average salaries and incentive packages that are being offered. Survey results are presented in a user-friendly, customized report, providing the information you need in an easy to understand format."

—Jeffrey M. Wells, Executive Director
Colorado Department of Labor and Employment



"The Workforce Centers have a new tool to work with as they help employers find the best employees and help employees make informed decisions about their future. The JVS provides more detailed and timely information than has ever been available before."

—Booker Graves, Executive Director
Colorado Workforce Council



For a full Upper Arkansas Region Job Vacancy Survey Report visit:
www.coworkforce.com/LMI/WRA/MESAJVS5.pdf
or to request a hard copy contact: Imi@state.co.us

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
Labor Market Information
Two Park Central, Suite 300
1515 Arapahoe Street
Denver, CO 80202-2117

Official Business
M303101000

See Colorado First

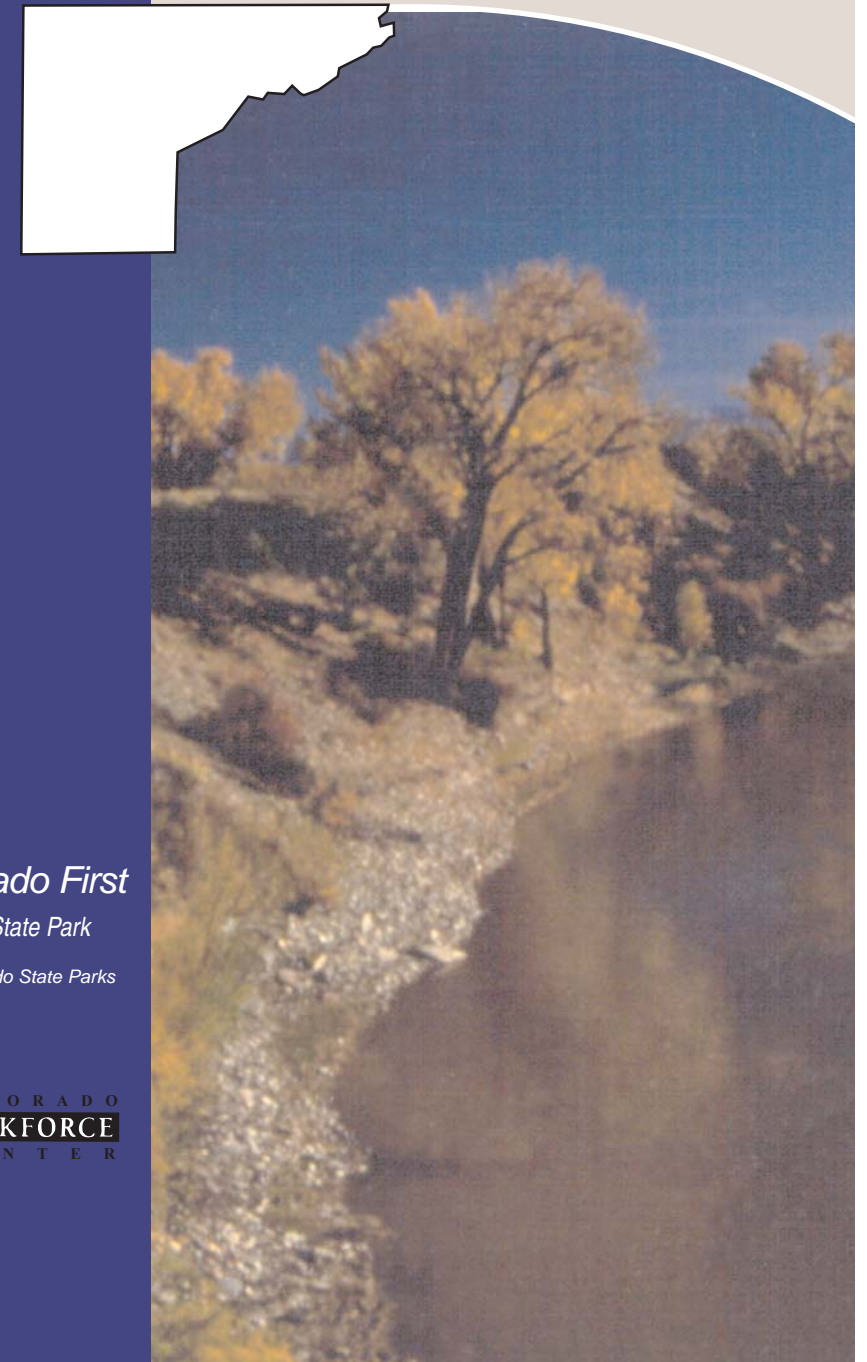
Highline Lake State Park
Mesa County
Courtesy Colorado State Parks



Mesa County

Job Vacancy Survey Highlights

Fall 2003



Mesa County

Fall 2003 Job Vacancy Survey

What it tells us: The Fall 2003 Mesa County Job Vacancy Survey (JVS) was conducted from September 24th through October 3rd, 2003. The survey provides a reliable estimate of the total number of job vacancies in the region while also relating demand-specific information about the available positions. The goal of the survey is to provide current information on the demand for workers so that employers, job seekers, economic developers, educators and workforce centers can make informed decisions in Mesa County.

A total of 875 employers representing 57% of the region's total employment responded to the survey. Of these surveyed, 48 are Government agencies, 45 are large employers and 782 are small to mid-size employers. The response rate for this survey is 83.7% while the cooperation rate is 99.9%. The margin of error for the overall vacancy estimate is plus or minus 4.2%, or about 15 vacancies. The major findings of the survey follow:

- ◆ An estimated 364 jobs were available for hire during the survey period, coinciding with a 0.9% vacancy rate.
- ◆ Health Care & Social Assistance employers offer the highest number of vacancies, 119.
- ◆ Ten percent of surveyed employers report at least one job vacancy.
- ◆ The average reported wage for vacancies in this survey is \$12.10 per hour.
- ◆ Seventy-nine percent of the reported openings are full-time, permanent positions.
- ◆ A majority of the reported job vacancies require educational attainment at the high school/GED level, or no diploma at all.
- ◆ Sixty-seven percent of the job vacancies require related or occupation specific experience.
- ◆ Fifty-five percent of the vacant positions have been open less than 30 days; only 6% have been open for 60 or more days.
- ◆ Healthcare Practitioner & Technical occupations are the most frequently reported of the 22 major occupational groups included in the survey.

Unemployment Rates—September 2003: (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

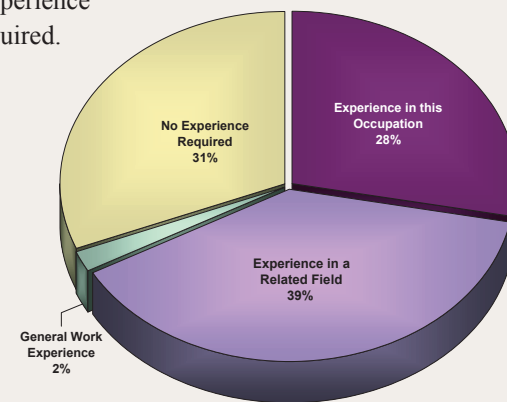
Colorado Statewide 5.4 %
Mesa County 4.7 %



Mesa County Workforce Center
2897 North Avenue Grand Junction, CO 81501
Phone: 970-257-0871 Fax: 970-257-2219

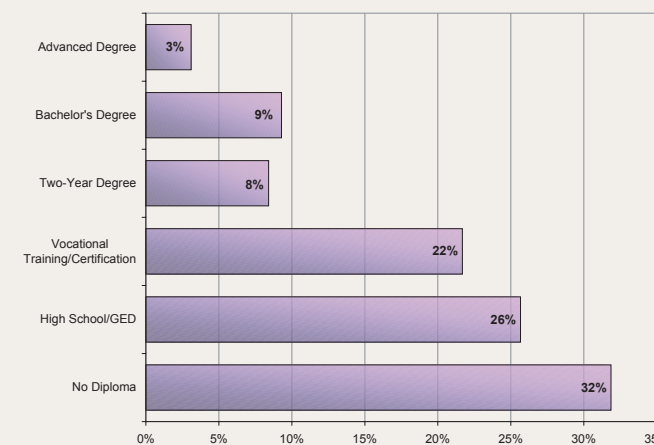
Vacancies by Experience, Education and Difficulty to Fill

Experience: "Experience in a Related Field", describes the largest portion of reported vacancies followed by "Experience in this Occupation". A variety of occupations were reported under each experience requirement, but Healthcare Practitioner & Technical jobs represent a larger portion of the job vacancies requiring higher experience, while Food Preparation & Serving Related account for more of the job vacancies where no experience is required.

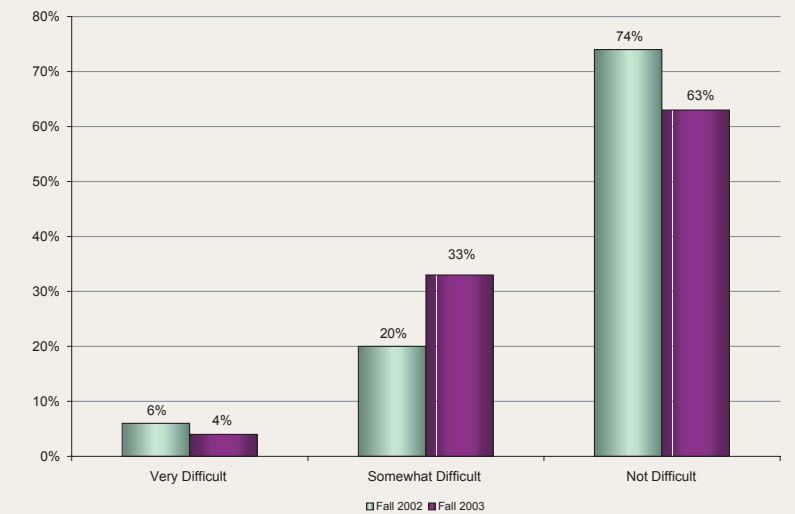


Education: Fifty-eight percent of the vacancies reported in this survey require a high school diploma or less. Occupations in demand with these education requirements include Food Preparation & Serving Related; Transportation & Material Moving; Administrative Support; and Production along with others.

The Health Care & Social Assistance JVS sector offers most opportunities for job seekers with higher education.



Difficulty to Fill: Employers' ability to find and hire qualified candidates is an important indicator of the supply side of the labor force. Of the vacancies termed not difficult to fill, 36% are classified under Food Preparation & Serving Related occupations. Though the proportion of vacancies considered very difficult to fill has declined, certain Healthcare Practitioner & Technical; Production; Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media; and Sales & Related vacancies are a challenge for employers to fill.



Occupations

Hot Jobs: Fifty-seven percent of all estimated job vacancies in Mesa county are represented by the occupations listed here. The average wage offered during the JVS survey period and the average wage earned by current workers in the given occupation are shown.

SOC Occupational Title	Average JVS Wage	Average Wage Paid
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	\$5.40	\$6.64
Retail Salespersons	\$7.40	\$11.17
Registered Nurses	\$22.40	\$20.73
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	\$10.60	\$8.95
Receptionists and Information Clerks	\$9.30	\$10.09
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$7.90	\$7.59
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic	†	\$11.54
Funeral Directors	†	\$19.53
Switchboard Operators, Including Answering Service	\$8.30	\$10.24
Driver/Sales Workers	\$7.20	\$12.15
Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	\$12.80	\$16.23
Accountants and Auditors	\$17.20	\$23.50
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$15.40	\$14.82
Food Servers, Nonrestaurant	\$6.00	\$7.81
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	\$19.70	\$17.43
Personal and Home Care Aides	\$7.90	\$7.75
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	†	\$14.94
Bus Drivers, School	\$7.90	\$11.31
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$6.90	\$9.66

† Insufficient Wage Data Available ‡ Annual Data
* Average Wage Paid refers to the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) wage data.

Major Occupational Groups

Wages and Vacancies: Fifty-one percent of reported job vacancies are found in the first four occupational groups. The accompanying wage ranges represent variations in skill, education and experience required for particular positions.

