

Rapid job growth in the Uintah Basin's mining industry is causing significant changes to the local labor market

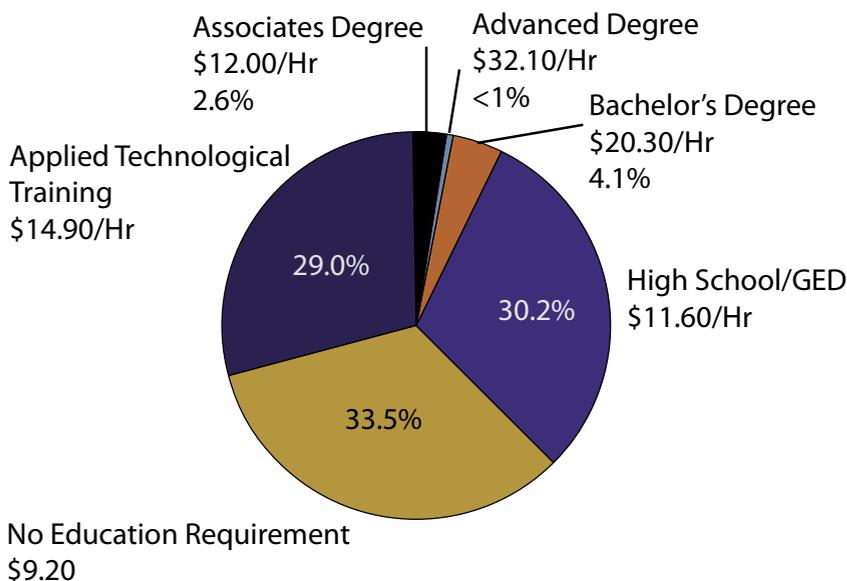
The March of the Roustabouts!



The Uintah Basin is booming – we all know that, but just how big of a boom is it? Well, in terms of demand for workers, this year's Job Vacancy Study (JVS) shows that the Uintah Basin had a job vacancy rate of 5.2 percent. That is, for every 100 jobs in the area there were roughly five vacant jobs. Of the three areas in this year's study this was the highest vacancy rate reported.

Sure there are open jobs, but what about pay? The JVS also confirms speculation about high wages for job seekers. In fact, at \$12.20 per hour, the Uintah Basin offers the same average asking wage for job openings as Metropolitan Utah. Of individual jobs that met the study's confidentiality standards, it is not surprising that occupations related to mining and extraction make up eight of the top ten highest-paid openings.

UINTAH BASIN SHARE OF OPEN JOBS PER LEVEL OF EDUCATION



Another measure of how much demand exists can be illustrated by describing a point of methodology of the JVS. For a region as small as the tri-county area considered the Uintah Basin in the study, it is difficult for individual occupations to reach the study's confidentiality standards in order to publish information on them. For example, in last year's study, an area similar in size to the Basin could only publish information for five individual occupations. This year in the Uintah Basin, information can be published on fourteen different occupations.

So what else does the JVS say about the kind of vacant jobs in the Basin? One thing that stands out is that jobs in the mining industry are closely related. For example, in many cases roustabouts and truck drivers were reported interchangeably. Fully 20 percent of the roustabout openings required some kind of professional license – presumably a Commercial Driver's License.

Employers in the Uintah Basin also showed a clear preference for workers with applied technology training. In contrast to the other two regions, 29 percent of the openings reported required some form of vocational education. The high vacancy rates in the mining and healthcare industries – where many occupations require vocational education – are responsible for this statistical anomaly.

Without question, rapid job growth in the Uintah Basin's mining industry is causing significant changes to the local labor market. Luckily, this year's JVS data provides us a timely and important snapshot that allows us to quantify just how much of a boom the county is experiencing. 

UINTAH – BASIN TOP TEN JOB OPENINGS BY AVERAGE ASKING WAGE

| Occupation | Mean Wage | **Estimated Openings | Estimated Employment | Vacancy Rate |
|--|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| <i>Derrick Operators, Oil and Gas</i> | \$18.60 | 15 | 70 | 19.0% |
| <i>Rotary Drill Operators, Oil and Gas</i> | \$18.60 | 10 | 50 | 13.3% |
| <i>*Bus & Truck Mechanic & Diesel Engine Specialists</i> | \$16.90 | 10 | 60 | 11.1% |
| <i>*Truck Driver, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer</i> | \$16.00 | 50 | 510 | 9.6% |
| <i>Roustabouts, Oil and Gas</i> | \$14.90 | 45 | 420 | 11.0% |
| Licensed Practitioner & Licensed Vocational Nurse | \$13.00 | 10 | 80 | 13.3% |
| <i>Service Unit Operator, Oil, Gas & Mine</i> | \$10.10 | 50 | 490 | 9.9% |
| <i>*Construction Laborers</i> | \$9.70 | 30 | 160 | 18.1% |
| <i>Helpers—Extraction Workers</i> | \$9.70 | 30 | 160 | 18.1% |
| Teacher Assistants | \$9.50 | 10 | 160 | 4.7% |

Italicized: Energy-related occupations

*Job openings strongly influenced in Uintah Basin region by mining

**Advertised wage is for job openings and does not represent wage of all employed persons in that occupation

UINTAH – BASIN JOB OPENINGS BY INDUSTRY

| Industry Name | Total Employment | Total Estimated Vacancies | Industry Vacancy Rate | Industry Average Asking Wage |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Construction | 1183 | 150 | 12.5% | \$15.00 |
| Mining | 2706 | 145 | 5.3% | \$13.80 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 1728 | 85 | 4.9% | \$12.60 |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 1508 | 75 | 5.0% | \$6.50 |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 1039 | 70 | 6.5% | \$15.00 |
| Retail Trade | 2219 | 60 | 2.7% | \$7.20 |
| Wholesale Trade | 514 | 40 | 8.0% | \$10.50 |
| Other Services (except Public Administration) | 357 | 35 | 9.8% | \$13.10 |
| Educational Services | 1584 | 30 | 1.8% | \$10.00 |
| Finance and Insurance | 256 | 25 | 10.3% | \$14.70 |
| Administrative and Support and Waste, Management and Remediation Services | 221 | 20 | 7.9% | \$12.40 |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 366 | 20 | 4.7% | \$12.40 |
| Utilities | 355 | 15 | 3.6% | \$10.30 |