

*Analysis and Evaluation Office, Regional Analysis & Outreach Unit*

**To:** Deb Bahr-Helgen, Community Planning and Economic Development, City of Minneapolis  
**From:** Rachel Hillman, Regional Labor Market Analyst  
**Date:** December 13, 2005  
**Re:** Hennepin County Occupations In Demand (OID) Summary

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In response to your request, I developed the following summary of occupations in demand in growing industries in Hennepin County. Included in this summary are the following key industries: Healthcare, Finance and Insurance, Professional and Technical Services, Freight and Air Passenger Transportation, and High Tech Manufacturing. Occupations selected include only those which typically require two or fewer years of education or training and which have a median wage of at least \$12.00 per hour. Labor market information provided is for the entire Twin Cities seven-county area.

**Healthcare**

The Healthcare industry has continued to demonstrate employment growth in the Twin Cities and Hennepin County over the past three years. Employer demand for workers in the healthcare industry has remained very strong relative to other industries during the past 5 years—even through the 2001 recession. The Labor Market Information (LMI) Office conducts a Minnesota Job Vacancy Survey twice a year and the healthcare industry and healthcare occupations (especially RNs, LPNs and Nursing Aides) are always near the top of the list in terms of not only numbers of openings, but in job vacancy rates which measure the number of openings relative to the number of people employed in those occupations.

There are nine healthcare occupations which demonstrate a higher-than-average hiring demand in the Healthcare industry in growing industries in Hennepin County. They are:

- Registered Nurses (Associate Degree)
- Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians (Associate Degree)
- Dental Hygienists (Associate Degree)
- Radiologic Technologists and Technicians (Associate Degree)
- Surgical Technologists (Postsecondary Vocational Degree)
- Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses (Postsecondary Vocational Degree)
- Nursing Aides, Orderlies and Attendants (Certification)
- Medical Assistants (Certification)
- Medical Records and Health Information Technicians (Associate Degree)

### **Finance and Insurance**

Employment in Credit Intermediation and Related Activities—in effect, banking—has risen quite substantially in the Twin Cities during the past few years despite the recession in 2001 and the subsequent rise in interest rates.

There are one occupation which demonstrates a higher-than-average hiring demand in the Finance and Insurance Industry:

- Bill and Account Collectors (Previous Work Experience)

### **Freight and Air Passenger Transportation**

Employment in the Transportation and Warehousing industry in Hennepin County has remained virtually unchanged over the past three years. Job vacancies in this industry reached a five year low during second quarter 2005 with just 775 openings in the Twin Cities.

There are two occupations which demonstrate a higher-than-average hiring demand in the Freight and Air Passenger Transportation Industry:

- Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialist (Postsecondary Vocational Degree)
- Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor Trailer (Certification)

### **Professional and Technical Services**

The Professional, Scientific and Technical Services industry was severely impacted by the 2001 recession. This industry experienced a 2.3 percent employment growth in Hennepin County between first quarter 2004 and first quarter 2005.

There are no occupations which demonstrate a higher-than-average hiring demand and the education/training and wage requirements in the Professional and Technical Services Industry.

### **High Tech Manufacturing**

Manufacturing has been the hardest hit industry over the past three years and has lost a significant number of jobs in the Twin Cities. High Tech Manufacturing employment in Hennepin County did post small, but positive growth between first quarter 2004 and first quarter 2005 with the addition of 58 jobs.

There are two occupations which demonstrate a higher-than-average hiring demand in the High Tech Manufacturing Industry:

- Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics (Postsecondary Vocational Degree)
- Welders, Cutters, Solderers and Brazers (Postsecondary Vocational Degree)