

NEWS

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New Survey Shows Hiring Prospects Good across Multiple Industries -- Job Openings Increase 53% from 2004 and Employers Project 6% Employment Increase Next Year

Rochester, NY—June 27, 2007—Finger Lakes Wired today announced that results of its 2007 Job Skills and Job Vacancy Survey indicate that the economy has improved since 2004 and that hiring prospects are good throughout the region in a variety of industries.

“This is good news,” said Matthew Hurlbutt, Managing Director of Finger Lakes Wired. “The results clearly show that individuals with key skills can find employment in the region.”

“The picture looks good for the near future. Employers we surveyed project a six percent increase in employment a year from now totaling 72,993 over current employment totaling 68,763.”

Mike Hockenberger, President & CEO, Precision Grinding and Manufacturing, says, “The survey validates that there is growth in manufacturing in the region, something that we in industry have known for some time. Presently, we are struggling to fill positions.”

Francine Miller, HR Manager at Paychex, Inc., is optimistic about hiring this year. In the last several years the locally-based payroll and human resource services provider has had at least a six percent growth in hiring company-wide year over year. She feels the company is on course to do the same in the year to come.

“We have positions available and... we do have openings at various levels from entry level to more experienced positions,” Miller said.

Some of those openings range from customer service, call center and inside sales jobs to more specialized positions such as IT, quality assurance, development, software testing, and accounting and finance related jobs.

“In general the Rochester talent pool is fairly lucrative for us for most of the positions we hire,” Miller said.

The survey was conducted for Finger Lakes Wired in May by the Rochester Business Alliance (RBA). It was a follow-up to the 2004 regional study by the RBA reported at the 2004 RochesterWorks! Workforce Summit.

One hundred sixty five employers representing a broad cross-section of industries were surveyed. Eight-five percent of respondents were located in Monroe County. Manufacturing was the largest single industry represented (43%) in the study.

“The survey gives us essential information on current openings in the region and direct feedback from employers regarding the skills of current applicants,” added Hurlbutt. “That information helps us better assist businesses with their recruitment and training efforts to support economic growth.”

Survey Highlights

Current and Future Labor Needs

Based on 65 benchmark positions.

- Current total openings reported by respondents: 2,494 - up 53% from 1,627 openings in 2004
- Anticipated number of openings in 6 months: 2,418
- Anticipated openings 1 year from now: 2,772 - up 70% from 1,627 openings 2004

Current Labor Needs

Top 10 positions in ranked order (high to low) as compared to 2004:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2004</u>
Registered nurses	Engineers
Customer service representatives	Machine operator/no setup
Technicians	Sales representatives
Licensed practical nurses	Bench assemblers
Physicians	Registered nurses
Engineers	Management/experienced
Office/clerical	Clerical workers with advanced computer skills
Bench assemblers	Licensed practical nurses
Sales representatives	Customer service representatives
Management, experienced	Technicians

Labor Needs in Six Months.

Top 10 positions in ranked order (high to low):

1. Registered nurses
2. Customer service representatives
3. Technicians
4. Licensed practical nurses
5. Bench assemblers
6. Physicians
7. Engineers
8. CNC machine operators
9. Management, experienced
10. Machine operators, no setup

Labor Needs in One Year.

Top 10 positions in ranked order (high to low) as compared to 2004:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2004</u>
Customer service representatives	Registered nurses
Registered nurses	Clerical workers with advanced computer skills
Bench assemblers	Bench assemblers
Technicians	Customer service representatives
Licensed practical nurses	Machinists/manufacturing mechanic

Engineers
 Machine operators, no setup
 Physicians
 Call center
 agents/representatives
 Management, experienced

Sales representatives
 Food servers
 Engineers
 Licensed practical nurses
 Medical secretaries

Applicant Skill Levels

Based on 65 benchmark positions. No comparative 2004 data.

Skill Category	Average Skill Level (5-Excellent, 1-Poor)
Basic Computer Skills	4
Advanced Computer Skills	3
Basic Reading/Writing/Math Skills	4
Accounting Knowledge	3
Written Communications	4
Technical Skills	4
Mechanical Aptitude	3

Skill Category	% of Applicants with Average or Better Aptitude	Percent of Applicants with Below Average Aptitude
Basic reading/Writing/Math Skills	91%	9%
Basic Computer Skills	85%	15%
Written Communications	82%	18%
Technical Skills	82%	18%
Mechanical Aptitude	75%	25%
Advanced Computer Skills	57%	44%
Accounting Knowledge	56%	44%

Finger Lakes Wired is one of 13 designated WIRED regions in the country funded by the U. S. Department of Labor WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) Initiative to support economic development and transform regional economies. Finger Lakes Wired initiatives focus on a nine-county region surrounding Rochester N.Y., to increase entrepreneurship and innovation, expand employment, advance opportunities for workers, and enhance the talent of the workforce through the creation of high-skill and high-wage opportunities.

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