



Alabama Department of Labor

News Release

For Immediate Release: September 18, 2015

Truck Drivers and Registered Nurses Continue to be the Most Sought After Employees According to HWOL (Help Wanted Online) Data *Over 27,000 New Ads Placed Online*

MONTGOMERY - Data collected and analyzed by the Alabama Department of Labor's Labor Market Information Division shows that the most online wanted ads were for truck drivers, registered nurses, and retail supervisors, with more than 11,000 ads placed for those occupations in August. Ads were up over the year by 6.4%.

The Help Wanted Online (HWOL) data is compiled from all online job postings in the state, including those posted on the state's free online jobs database, www.joblink.alabama.gov, and other sources; such as traditional job boards, corporate boards, and social media sites. There were 52,323 online ads this month, 27,002 of those were new ads. Almost 49,000 of those ads were for full-time positions.

Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers earn a mean wage of \$20.05 per hour, registered nurses earn a mean wage of \$27.71 per hour, and first-line supervisors of retail sales workers earn a mean wage of \$19.79 per hour.

Wages for Top 10 Occupations with Most Online Ads Posted

| Occupation | Wages (per hour) |
|--|-------------------------|
| Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | \$20.05 |
| Registered Nurses | \$27.71 |
| First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers | \$19.79 |
| Retail Salespersons | \$12.50 |
| Customer Service Representatives | \$14.68 |
| Maintenance and Repair Workers | \$18.15 |
| First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation | \$14.69 |

| | |
|--|---------|
| First-Line Supervisors of Office and Admin. Support | \$24.58 |
| First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers | \$27.38 |
| Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing | \$31.35 |

Source: Alabama Department of Labor

“Five of the 10 top jobs have hourly wages of \$20 or more. It’s important to know what kinds of jobs are in demand so that agencies, including the Department of Labor, can work together to help provide qualified employees and put Alabamians back to work,” said Fitzgerald Washington, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Labor.

Online job demand was highest in the large metro cities, led by Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa. The cities with the highest annual percentage gain over the year in online ads include Columbus (+1,025%), Franklin (+1,000%), and Eufaula (+140%).

| <u>TOP CITIES WITH MOST CHANGE IN ONLINE ADS</u> | <u>Online Ads</u> <u>August</u> <u>2015</u> | <u>Online Ads</u> <u>August</u> <u>2014</u> | <u>Annual</u> <u>Change</u> <u>(Percent)</u> |
|--|---|---|--|
| Columbus, AL | 180 | 16 | 1,025% |
| Franklin, AL | 77 | 7 | 1,000% |
| Eufaula, AL | 115 | 48 | 140% |
| Fort Payne, AL | 222 | 95 | 134% |
| Anniston, AL | 480 | 394 | 22% |
| Tuscaloosa, AL | 2,247 | 1,856 | 21.1% |
| Gadsden, AL | 1,175 | 1,021 | 15.1% |
| Florence, AL | 955 | 841 | 13.6% |

“We continually see that truck drivers and nurses are our most in demand jobs,” continued Washington. “Even though we’ve come to accept that as a fact over the past year or so, what’s striking is that even though these industries dominate the list, their demand continues to grow. Ads are up by more than 100% for truck drivers from this time last year. Nursing ads are up by 49%. These well-paying careers don’t seem to be going anywhere anytime soon.”

The top employers with the most online ads placed in Alabama are: Community Health Systems, Inc. (849), UAB Medicine (700), and St. Vincent’s Health System (607).

The three industry groups posting the most online ads are:

General Freight Trucking

Employment Services (Placement Agencies or Temporary Help)

Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools

The highest annual growth in online ads was found in furniture stores (+331%), computer and peripheral equipment manufacturing (+324%), and specialized freight trucking (+225%).

| <u>TOP 5 INDUSTRY GROUPS CHANGES</u> | Online Ads | Online Ads | Annual |
|--|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | <u>August</u> | <u>August</u> | <u>Change</u> |
| | <u>2015</u> | <u>2014</u> | <u>(Percent)</u> |
| Furniture Stores | 418 | 97 | 331% |
| Computer and Peripheral Equipment Manufacturing | 233 | 55 | 324% |
| Specialized Freight Trucking | 231 | 71 | 225% |
| General Freight Trucking | 2,079 | 720 | 189% |
| Home Health Care Services | 1,006 | 531 | 90% |

Fifty-two percent of all online ads are less than 30 days old, and another 29% of all ads are less than 90 days old.

“We’d like to encourage anyone who needs a job, or wants a different job, to come into one of our Career Centers for assistance,” said Washington. “Our trained staff can assist you in obtaining the career you want.”

A listing of Career Centers can be found at www.joblink.alabama.gov.

HWOL data for metropolitan areas and regions can be found at <http://www2.labor.alabama.gov/workforcedev/default.aspx> under the Reports and Surveys section. Select the region under the “HWOL” drop-down menu.

###

Members of the media seeking more information should contact Communications Director Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.