

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Census adding 1,000 part-time jobs to St. Louis economy

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Regional census officials in Missouri and Illinois have put out hiring notices for 1,000 part-time employees to assist in the local piece of the nationwide head count slated to get under way in March.

The local positions range from field operations supervisors to actual census takers to crew leaders to office clerks. Salaries range from \$11.50 to \$17 per hour.

Economists predict the addition of 1.2 million census workers will put a temporary dent in the nation's double-digit unemployment rate.

It is unclear, however, what impact the infusion of part-time jobs will have on the long recovery prospects of the 15 million American workers displaced by the recession. Locally, the effort could provide interim relief for a fraction of the 38,000 area workers displaced by the recession.

Candidates can test for area census positions at community centers and libraries in Illinois and Missouri through the rest of January and into February.

Applicants are asked to call a toll-free number, 1-866-861-2010 and follow the prompt that asks for their ZIP code. The prompt will then point candidates to the next available testing date at the nearest location.

The census agency said applicants can see a practice test by following the "Application Materials" link at <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/>. The toll-free number also provides locations where hard copies of the practice exam are available.