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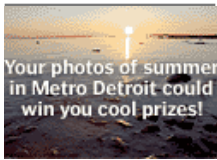
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Robin Buckson / The Detroit News

Kelly Services service manager Nancy Campbell, left, talks with Paul King, 41, of Berkley, during the job fair in Southfield on Friday.

## Job-seekers head to Southfield

85 employers attend job fair in hopes of hiring some of the 800 people looking for employment.

Jennifer Youssef / The Detroit News

**SOUTHFIELD** -- More than 800 job seekers filed into the Southfield Hotel and Convention Center Friday to meet with employers and hand out their resumes at the Oakland County Employment Diversity Council's annual Diversity Job Expo.

Event organizers said the turnout was low compared with other job fairs the council has sponsored, which have drawn up to 2,000 people. Event Chair Melva Allen blamed the low attendance on the location of the fair and the number of other job fairs this month. "This is not reflective of how the market is," Allen said.

Michigan's jobless rate in May was 6.0 percent, far less than 7.2 percent reported the month before but still higher than the national average.

The Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth concluded the decline was from people leaving the job pool.

Paul King hasn't had a steady job since he was laid off from his union position as a construction foreman three months ago. For the past two years, work has been sketchy and he didn't know if or when he was going to have another project. "The cyclical market is killing me," King said.

The 41-year-old Berkley man came to the fair in a gray striped suit to look for a job in

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marketing or management.

King wants to get hired by a mid-sized or large company to do a job where he can use his mind more and his hands less. He expects to take a cut in pay at first until he gets promoted.

Roberta Sims, 20, of Detroit, still has two more years of college left, but she is willing to forgo her summer break to get some professional experience. Sims didn't know if she wanted to work for any of the companies at the expo.

"There's too many insurance companies and engineering (firms)," said Sims, a junior at the University of Detroit Mercy.

More than 85 companies, including Handleman Co., Avon, MetLife, Beaumont Hospitals and Starbucks were at the fair.

Garry McCrainey of Southfield hasn't had much luck finding a job since he left the army last year. McCrainey, a 26-year-old Army specialist, returned to Michigan last June and started looking for work after a six-month break.

He's looking for a job in manufacturing or office work. His chances of working in manufacturing are slim as the state has shed 24,000 factory jobs since May 2005.

For now, McCrainey is paying for items his family needs with money he's receiving from the military. "It's tough," he said.

*You can reach Jennifer Youssef at (313)222-2300 or [jyoussef@detnews.com](mailto:jyoussef@detnews.com).*

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