

# Hiring hurdle: Finding workers who can pass a drug test

By Jackie Calmes, New York Times

SAVANNAH, Ga. – A few years back, the heavy-equipment manufacturer JCB held a job fair in the glass foyer of its sprawling headquarters near here, but when a throng of prospective employees learned the next step would be drug testing, an alarming thing happened: About half of them left.

That story still circulates within the business community of this historic port city. But the problem has gotten worse.

All over the country are struggling to find workers who can pass a pre-employment drug test.

That hurdle partly stems from the growing ubiquity of drug testing, at corporations with big human resources departments, in industries like trucking where testing is mandated by federal law for safety reasons, and increasingly at smaller companies.

But data suggest employers' difficulties also reflect an increase in the use of drugs, especially marijuana – employers' main gripe – and also heroin and other opioid drugs much in the news.

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