



Help Wanted in Oregon

Results from the Spring 2020

Job Vacancy Survey



Oregon businesses reported 42,500 vacancies in spring 2020.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Spring 2020

Vacancies	42,540
Average Hourly Wage	\$17.37
Full-time Positions	76%
Permanent Positions	90%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	34%
Requiring Previous Experience	53%
Difficult to Fill	44%

Total job openings fell from the level in the winter (-10%), and dropped well below the level last spring (-18%). But employers continued to hire in the spring, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Characteristics of Oregon job vacancies were consistent with prior quarters. A typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time, permanent position.

Source: Oregon Employment Department



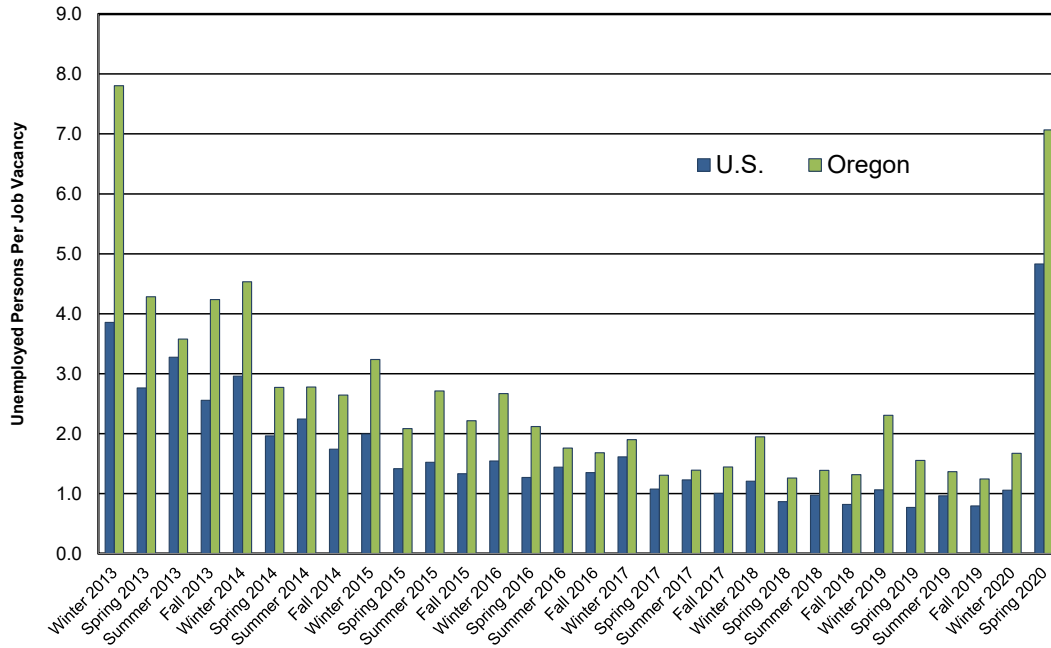
Employers were asked “Is this location closed or operations curtailed due to COVID-19 restrictions?”

- 18 percent of employers responded that their business operations were curtailed or closed due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- 39 percent of businesses in the leisure and hospitality industry responded that operations were affected.
- 24 percent of respondents in both Northwest Oregon and the Portland-metro area said their business operations were affected.

COVID-19 led to mass unemployment – but job openings didn't disappear.

U.S. and Oregon Had Many Unemployed Workers per Vacancy in Spring 2020

(Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2020)



Our spring reference month is **May** this year. The U.S. unemployed-to-vacancy ratio peaked at 4.8 in April and dropped to 4.4 in May. Oregon's ratio reached 7.1 in May.

In January, Oregon's unemployed-to-vacancy was 2-to-1 and the U.S. remained at a 1-to-1 ratio for the 12th consecutive quarter.



Businesses reported hiring in various industries.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Spring 2020

Industry	Vacancies
All Industries	42,540
Administrative, management, and waste services	10,500
Health care and social assistance	8,730
Leisure and hospitality	4,767
Construction	3,701
Retail trade	2,805
Manufacturing	2,545
Financial activities	2,345
Natural resources and mining	2,244
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	1,569
Other services	1,354
Professional, scientific, and technical services	901
Wholesale trade	883
Private educational services	162
Information	34

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Administrative, management & waste services topped the industry list in spring, totaling 10,500.

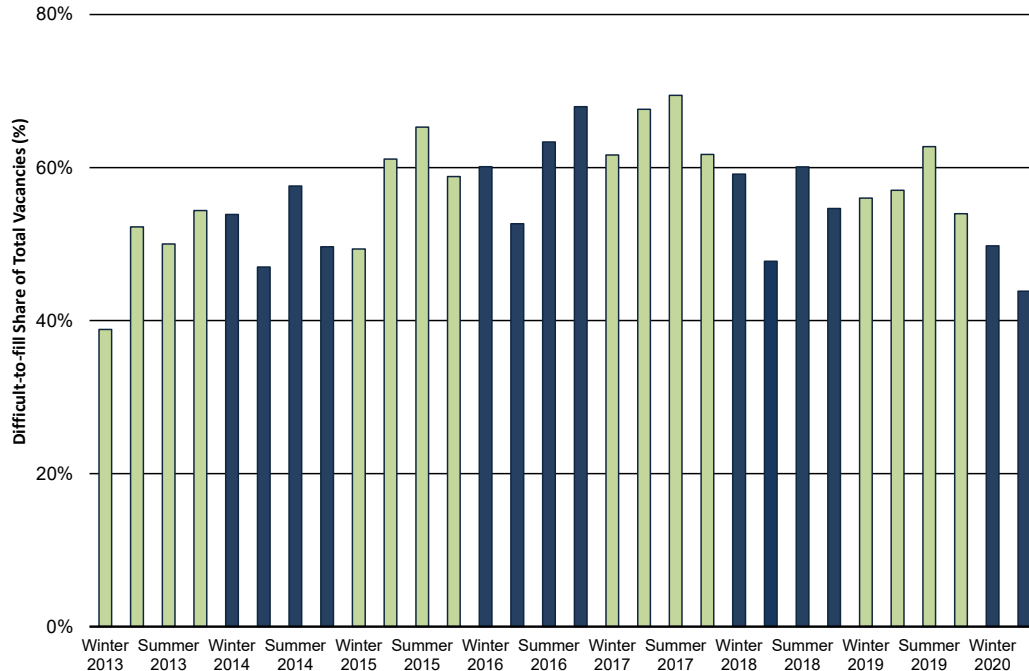
Vacancies for **janitors and cleaners** made up 19% of industry vacancies and **stockers and order fillers** made up another 16%.

Leisure and hospitality had about 4,800 vacancies in spring, down from an estimated 7,700 vacancies in winter. Leisure and hospitality reported the most closures due to COVID-19.



Two out of five spring job vacancies were reported as difficult to fill.

Businesses Report Difficulty Filling Two out of Five Vacancies in Spring 2020



Health care support, construction & extraction, and farming, fishing & forestry jobs were the most difficult to fill in the spring.

Employers reported difficulty filling fewer than one-third of the three largest occupation groups in the spring: transportation & material moving, production, and office & administrative support.



The starting wage for job vacancies averaged \$17.37 per hour in the spring.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range, Spring 2020

Wage (per hour)	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage
All Wage Ranges	42,540	\$17.37
Less than \$15	17,553	\$12.67
\$15 through \$19.99	11,128	\$16.26
\$20 through \$24.99	3,622	\$21.91
\$25 through \$29.99	1,440	\$27.37
\$30 and up	3,517	\$35.56
Unknown	5,280	

The average starting wage dropped 4 percent from the \$18.13 average in spring 2019.

Total vacancies were down 18 percent in the spring, with the greatest declines among jobs paying more than \$25 per hour. The number of vacancies paying less than \$15 per hour dropped just 6 percent.

Source: Oregon Employment Department



The Oregon Job Vacancy Survey captures information for nine sub-state areas.

Survey Region	Counties
Central Oregon/East Cascades	Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler
Clackamas	Clackamas
Eastern Oregon	Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa
Lane	Lane
Mid-Valley	Linn, Marion, Polk, Yamhill
Northwest Oregon	Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, Tillamook
Portland-Metro	Multnomah, Washington
Rogue Valley	Jackson, Josephine
Southwestern Oregon	Coos, Curry, Douglas

Spring vacancies were distributed across the state, with the Portland tri-county area accounting for two out of five.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Spring 2020

Geography	Vacancies
Oregon Statewide	42,540
Portland Metro	14,103
Mid-Valley	8,205
Lane	4,008
Rogue Valley	3,714
East Cascades	3,651
Clackamas	2,219
Southwestern Oregon	2,045
Northwest Oregon	1,984
Eastern Oregon	1,544
<i>multi-area or unknown excluded</i>	

Overall vacancies declined 18 percent since spring 2019. Vacancies dropped the most over the year in Clackamas County and the East Cascades. Northwest Oregon, Lane County, and Eastern Oregon also had large declines.

Source: Oregon Employment Department





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For more information about job vacancies in Oregon, visit the Job Vacancy Survey box on the [Publications page](#) at QualityInfo.org

