



Help Wanted in Oregon

Results from the Winter 2020

Job Vacancy Survey



Please note...

These vacancy estimates do not reflect recent layoffs and closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are working hard to provide up-to-date information to serve Oregon businesses and workers.

More information on Unemployment Insurance benefits can be found here: https://govstatus.egov.com/ORUnemployment_COVID19

Data and analysis related to COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.qualityinfo.org/covid-19>



Oregon businesses reported 47,400 vacancies in winter 2020.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Winter 2020

Vacancies	47,446
Average Hourly Wage	\$18.89
Full-time Positions	75%
Permanent Positions	92%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	36%
Requiring Previous Experience	49%
Difficult to Fill	50%

Total job openings fell from the level in the fall (-7%), but increased over the year (+9%).

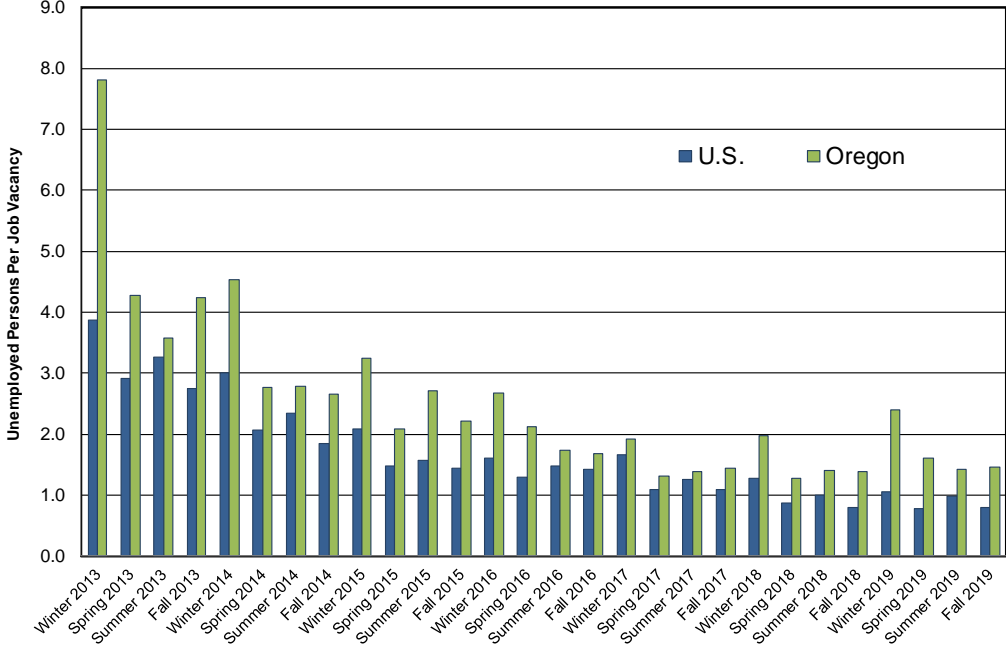
A typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time, permanent position.

Firms with two to 19 employees represented 41 percent of Oregon vacancies, a bit higher than the average share of vacancies provided by small businesses since 2015 (37%).



In January 2020, the labor market remained tight in Oregon and across the U.S.

U.S. and Oregon Have Few Unemployed Workers per Vacancy
(Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2019)



The U.S. has had a 1-to-1 ratio of unemployed persons to job openings for 11 consecutive quarters. Oregon's ratio has ranged between 1-to-1 and 2-to-1 for the last three years.



Businesses reported strong hiring in several industries.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Winter 2020

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
All Industries	47,446
Health care and social assistance	11,852
Leisure and hospitality	7,716
Retail trade	4,741
Administrative, management, and waste services	4,522
Other services	3,653
Professional and technical services	2,809
Construction	2,420
Manufacturing	2,157
Financial activities	2,017
Natural resources and mining	1,801
Wholesale trade	1,688
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	1,394
Information	473
Private educational services	203

Source: Oregon Employment Department

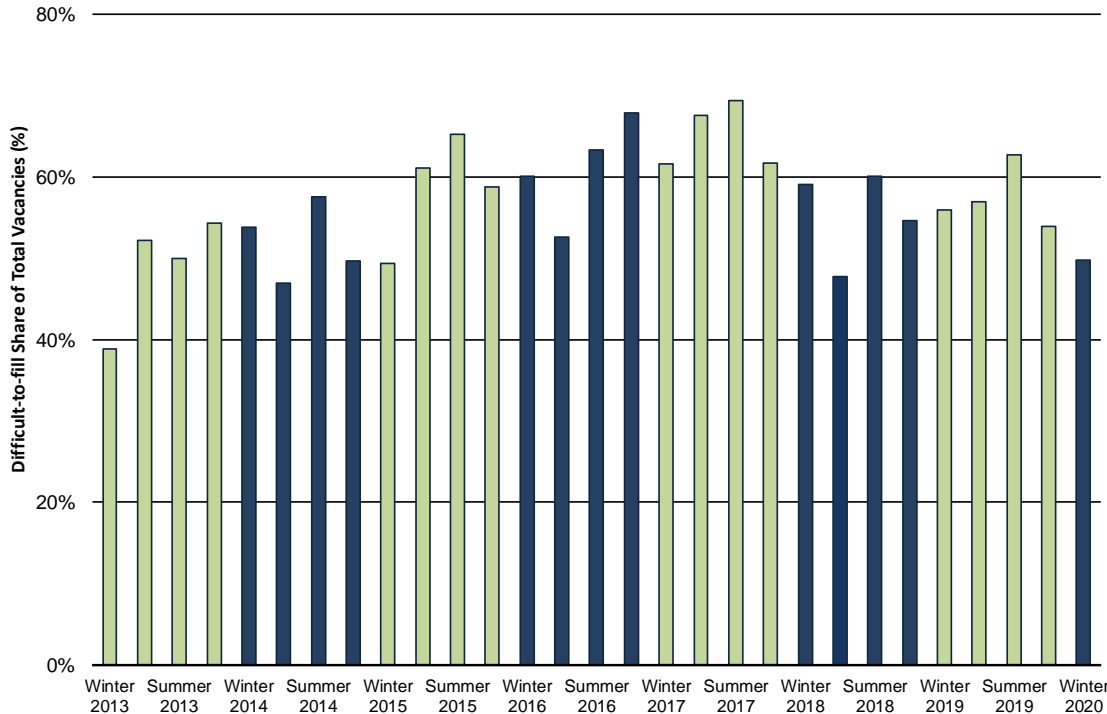
Private health care and social assistance reported the most vacancies in the fall, accounting for 25 percent of all job openings. Leisure and hospitality also had a lot of vacancies in early 2020; we know these disappeared rapidly with COVID-19 restrictions.

In the first weeks of 2020, hiring remained broad-based across the economy, with at least 1,000 vacancies in 12 private industry sectors.



Half of winter job vacancies were reported as difficult to fill.

Businesses Report Difficulty Filling Half of the Vacancies in Winter



In recent years, a lack of applicants has been a barrier for employers looking to fill their openings. Employers have also reported a lack of qualified candidates for positions and unfavorable working conditions like split shifts, part-time positions with few hours, and tough physical labor.



The starting wage for job vacancies averaged \$18.89 per hour in the winter.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range, Winter 2020

Wage (per hour)	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage
All Wage Ranges	47,446	\$18.89
Less than \$15	16,869	\$12.53
\$15 through \$19.99	8,398	\$16.80
\$20 through \$24.99	4,404	\$22.17
\$25 through \$29.99	2,320	\$27.36
\$30 and up	3,603	\$44.10
Unknown	11,852	-

The average starting wage dropped a bit from the \$19.47 average in winter 2019, with a larger group of vacancies paying less than \$15 per hour and fewer vacancies paying \$25 per hour or more.

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

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

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Winter 2020

<u>Geography</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
Oregon Statewide	47,446
Portland Metro	15,335
Mid-Valley	6,940
Lane	4,830
Clackamas	4,632
East Cascades	4,027
Rogue Valley	3,272
Eastern Oregon	2,909
Northwest Oregon	2,653
Southwestern Oregon	2,594
<i>multi-area or unknown excluded</i>	

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Overall vacancies increased 9 percent since winter 2019, with increases in Portland, the Mid-Valley, Eastern Oregon, and Southwestern Oregon. Northwest Oregon and Clackamas County had significantly fewer vacancies in the winter than at this time last year.





Anna Johnson

Senior Economic Analyst

Anna.L.Johnson@oregon.gov

(503) 947-1274

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

