HELP WANTED IN OREGON RESULTS FROM THE THIRD QUARTER 2026 JOB VACANCY SURVEY

OCTOBER 22, 2026

State of Oregon Employment Department

OREGON BUSINESSES REPORTED 53,900 VACANCIES IN THIRD QUARTER 2026.

Oregon Job Vacancies Third Quarter 2026	
Vacancies	**53,889**
Average Hourly Wage	$29.85
Full-time Positions	82%
Permanent Positions	94%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	38%
Requiring Previous Experience	68%
Difficult to Fill	54%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

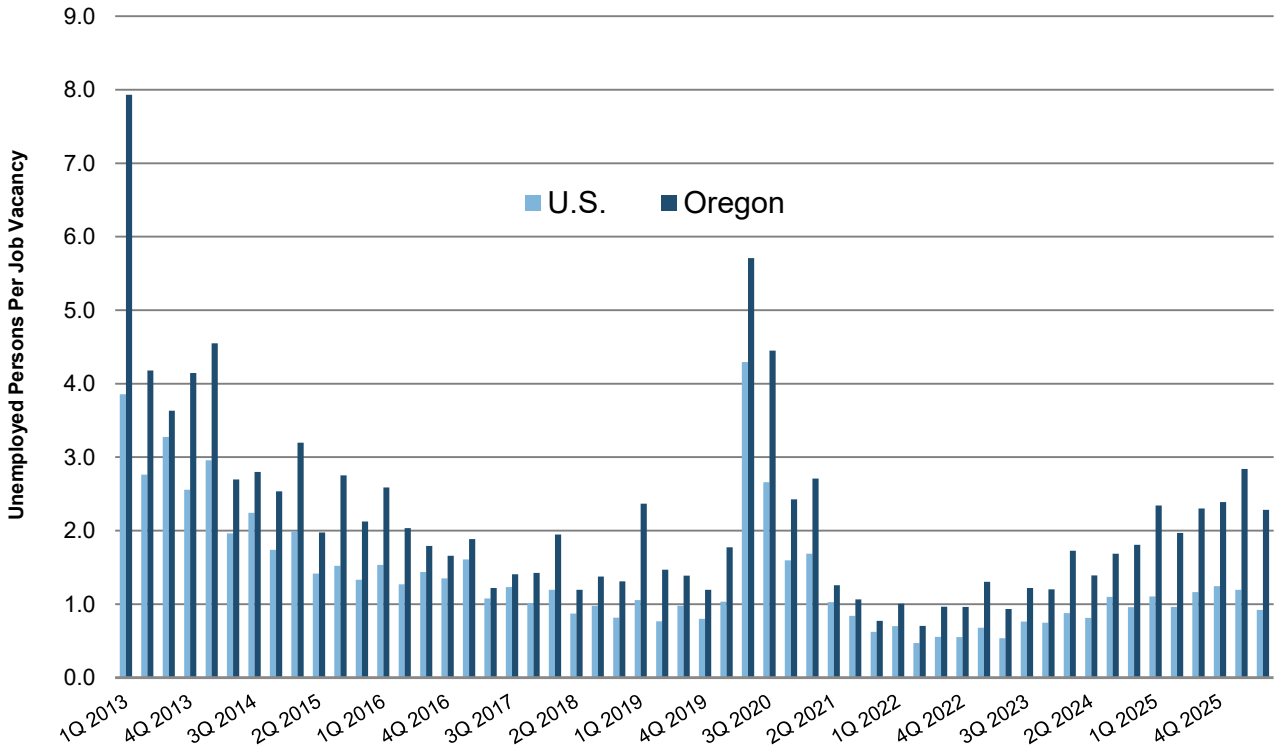
Oregon businesses reported 53,900 vacancies in third quarter 2026. Vacancies increased 19% from the second quarter and remained flat from third quarter 2025. Employers reported difficulty filling 54% of third quarter 2026 vacancies.

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

AS JOB VACANCIES INCREASED IN THE THIRD QUARTER, THE UNEMPLOYED TO JOB VACANCY RATIO IN OREGON DECREASED TO 2.2.

Oregon Unemployed to Job Vacancy Ratio Rising Faster than U.S. Ratio Since 2023

(Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2026)



Source: Oregon Employment Department

The U.S. ratio was 1.1 in July 2026. It has remained around 1.0 for two years.

Oregon had 2.2 unemployed per job vacancy in third quarter 2026, part of a rise since the post-pandemic recession expansion period in 2021 and 2022.

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BUSINESSES REPORTED HIRING IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Third Quarter 2026

Industry	Vacancies
All Industries	**53,889**
Health care and social assistance	13,780
Leisure and hospitality	6,491
Professional, scientific, and technical services	6,114
Manufacturing	5,680
Wholesale trade	4,988
Retail trade	4,718
Construction	4,081
Management, administrative, and waste services	2,591
Financial activities	1,725
Other services	1,652
Natural resources and mining	1,032
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	892
Private educational services	115
Information	30

Source: Oregon Employment Department

One-quarter (26%) of all vacancies (13,800) were in the health care and social assistance industry. Leisure and hospitality and professional, scientific, and technical services followed, with about 6,500 and 6,100 job vacancies, respectively.

Note: The Oregon Job Vacancy Survey includes only private-sector businesses with two or more employees.

THE STARTING WAGE FOR JOB VACANCIES AVERAGED $29.85 PER HOUR IN THE THIRD QUARTER.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range

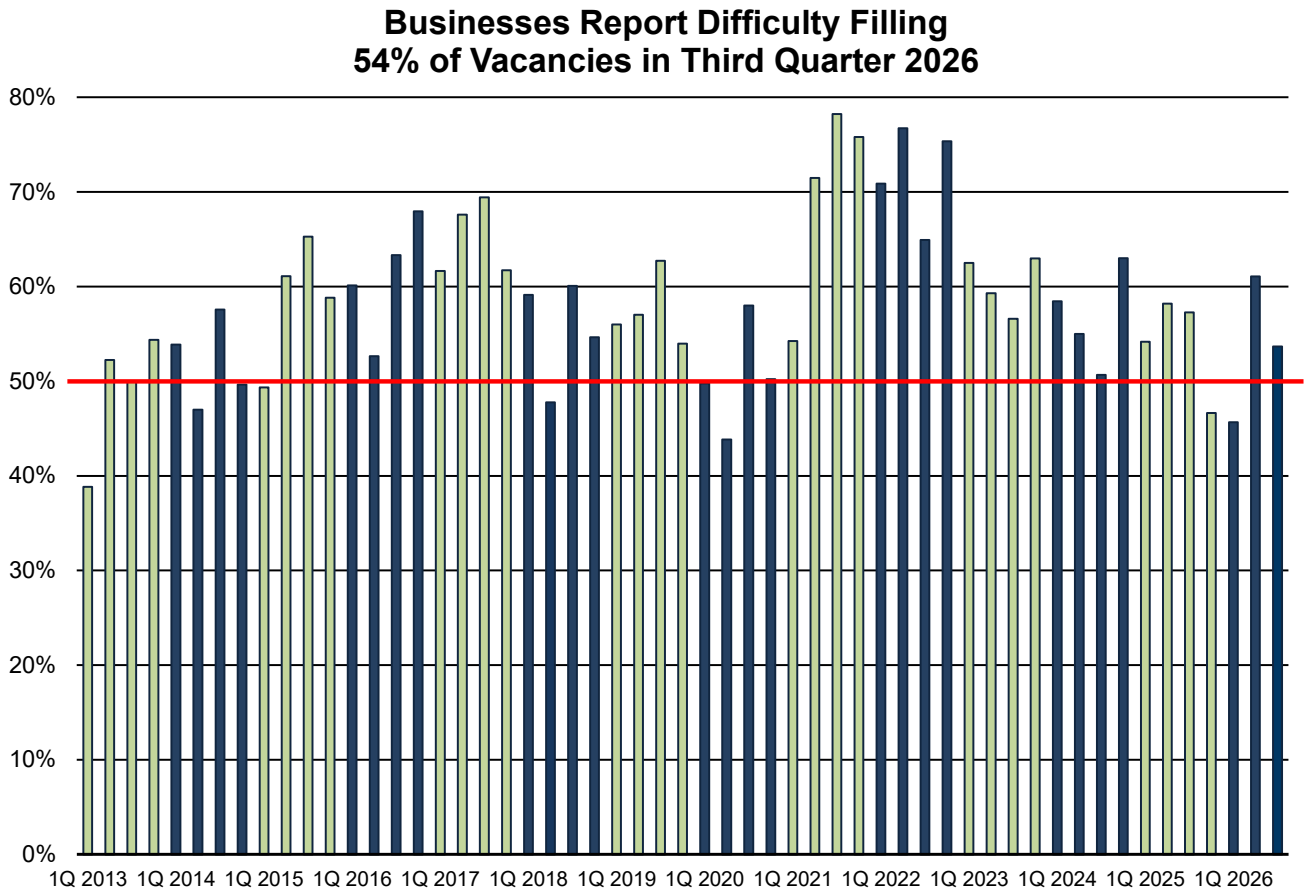
Wage (per hour)	Third Quarter 2025	Third Quarter 2026
All Wage Ranges	**53,642**	**53,889**
Less than $20	16,154	14,958
$20 through $29.99	17,124	18,743
$30 and up	12,988	16,755

Unknown excluded

Source: Oregon Employment Department

The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was $29.85 per hour, an increase of 11% from the second quarter 2026 and 8% from third quarter 2025.

54% OF THIRD QUARTER JOB VACANCIES WERE REPORTED AS DIFFICULT TO FILL.



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Quarterly Job Vacancy Survey

The occupations with the highest number of difficult-to-fill vacancies:

- Personal care aides
- Civil engineers
- Retail salespersons
- Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers

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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

THE PORTLAND TRI-COUNTY AREA REPRESENTED 46% OF THIRD QUARTER 2026 VACANCIES.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Third Quarter 2026

Geography	Vacancies
Oregon Statewide	**53,889**
Portland Metro	19,118
Mid-Valley	7,571
East Cascades	6,283
Clackamas	5,631
Rogue Valley	4,112
Lane	3,221
Northwest Oregon	2,521
Eastern Oregon	2,103
Southwestern Oregon	1,914

Multi-area or unknown regions excluded

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Third quarter vacancies were distributed across the state, with the Portland tri-county area (Portland Metro and Clackamas County) accounting for 46%.

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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

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