

Help Wanted In Oregon

Results from the Summer 2023 Job Vacancy Survey

October 16, 2023

OREGON BUSINESSES REPORTED 70,500 VACANCIES IN SUMMER 2023.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Summer 2023

Vacancies	70,485
Average Hourly Wage	\$23.81
Full-time Positions	81%
Permanent Positions	97%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	36%
Requiring Previous Experience	66%
Difficult to Fill	57%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

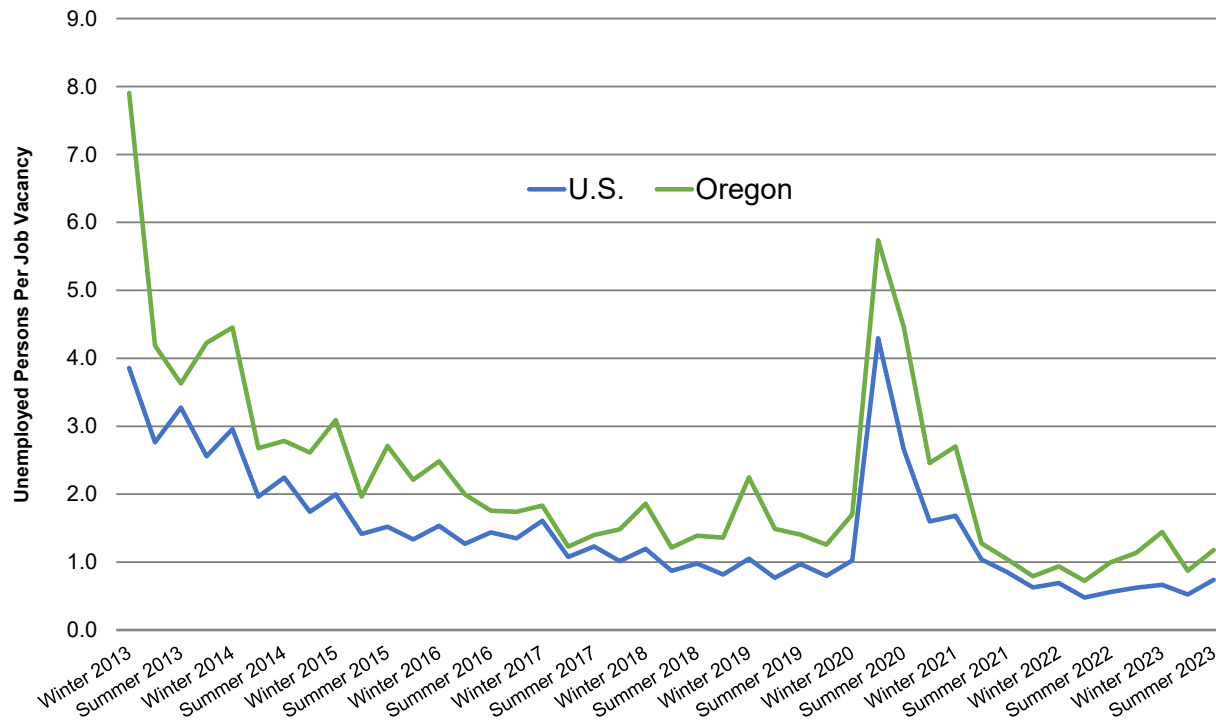
Vacancies increased 2% from the spring and decreased 25% from summer 2022. Employers reported difficulty filling 57% of summer 2023 vacancies.

The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was around \$23.81 per hour, an inflation-adjusted increase of 4% from summer 2022, but a 14% decrease from spring 2023.

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

AS UNEMPLOYMENT ROSE IN THE SUMMER, THE UNEMPLOYED TO JOB VACANCY RATIO IN OREGON INCREASED.

U.S. and Oregon Unemployed to Job Vacancy Ratios Still Low after Spring 2020 Peak
(Job Openings with Private Employers, 2013-2023)



Source: Oregon Employment Department

Oregon’s unemployed-to-vacancy ratio has been below pre-pandemic levels for the past two years.

The U.S. ratio was 0.7 in July 2023, its eighth straight quarter below 1. It reached 4.3 in April 2020 after several years around 1-to-1.

Oregon had 1.2 unemployed per job vacancy in summer 2023, up from 1.0 in summer 2022 but still much lower than the peak of 5.7 in May 2020.

BUSINESSES REPORTED HIRING IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Summer 2023

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
All Industries	70,485
Health care and social assistance	19,153
Leisure and hospitality	9,232
Retail trade	9,189
Management, administrative, and waste services	7,678
Construction	5,258
Professional, scientific, and technical services	4,653
Other services	4,620
Manufacturing	2,863
Financial activities	2,178
Natural resources and mining	2,082
Wholesale trade	1,646
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	1,422
Private educational services	417
Information	94

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Health care and social assistance had the most vacancies of any industry, with 19,200. Leisure and hospitality had 9,200 vacancies in summer. Retail trade had 9,200 vacancies.

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

THE STARTING WAGE FOR JOB VACANCIES AVERAGED \$23.81 PER HOUR IN THE SUMMER.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range

Wage (per hour)	Summer 2022	Summer 2023
All Wage Ranges	94,434	70,485
Less than \$20	45,222	29,765
\$20 through \$29.99	23,737	20,962
\$30 and up	12,662	12,754

unknown excluded

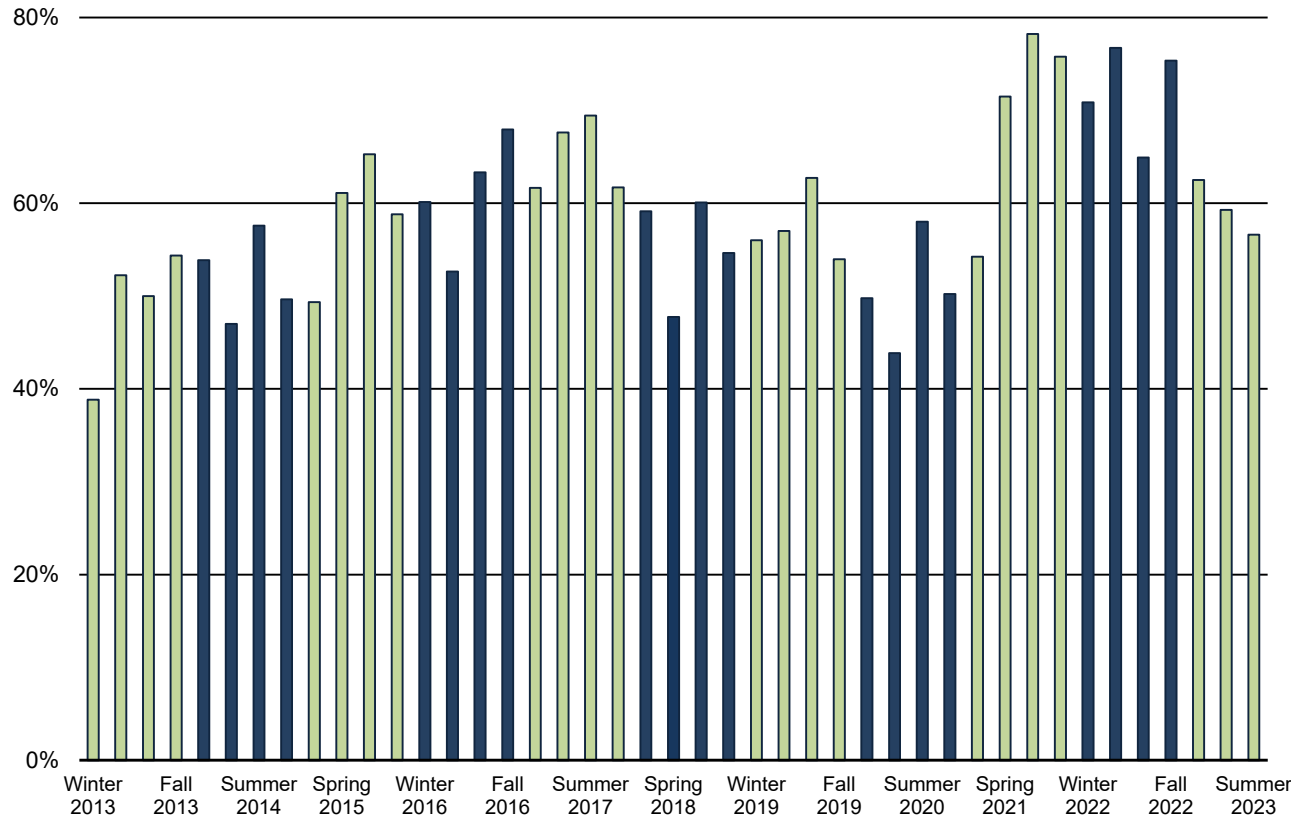
Source: Oregon Employment Department

The average starting wage among this group of vacancies was around \$23.81 per hour, an inflation-adjusted increase of 4% from summer 2022, but a 14% decrease from spring 2023.

The number of vacancies offering a starting wage below \$20 per hour decreased 34% over the year. The number of vacancies offering between \$20 and \$30 per hour decreased 12%, and vacancies paying above \$30 per hour increased 1%.

57% OF SUMMER JOB VACANCIES WERE REPORTED AS DIFFICULT TO FILL.

**Businesses Report Difficulty Filling
57% of Vacancies in Summer 2023**



Source: Oregon Employment Department, Quarterly Job Vacancy

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

- Automotive service techs and mechanics
- Retail salespersons
- Dental assistants
- Construction laborers
- Truck drivers

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

VACANCIES DECLINED OVER THE YEAR IN EVERY REGION.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Summer 2023

<u>Geography</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
Oregon Statewide	70,485
Portland Metro	22,154
Mid-Valley	11,986
Clackamas	7,480
Lane	6,804
East Cascades	6,780
Rogue Valley	4,677
Northwest Oregon	4,096
Eastern Oregon	2,812
Southwestern Oregon	2,787

Unknown/multiple regions excluded

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Summer vacancies were distributed across the state, with the Portland tri-county area accounting for about 42%.

Vacancies decreased over the year in every region of the state, with the largest declines in Northwest Oregon and the Portland Metro area.

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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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