

Job Vacancies Update & What's a High-Wage Job?

Nick Beleiciks, State Employment Economist

March 8, 2019

Presentation to the Workforce and Talent Development Board



There are a lot of unfilled job vacancies.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Fall 2018

Vacancies	60,508	The fall vacancy total
Average Hourly Wage	\$18.77	declined slightly (-5%)
Full-time Positions	79%	compared with summer
Permanent Positions	85%	2018, and rose by 11
Requiring Education Beyond High School	35%	percent compared with fall 2017.
Requiring Previous Experience	58%	A typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time,
Difficult to Fill	55%	permanent position.



By Industry – health care didn't top the list.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, Fall 2018

Industry	Vacancies	
All Industries	60,508	•
Leisure and hospitality	8,799	
Construction	7,513	
Health care and social assistance	7,076	
Manufacturing	6,543	•
Wholesale trade	6,319	
Retail trade	4,818	
Management, administrative, and waste services	3,407	
Other services	3,382	•
Financial activities	3,162	
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,438	
Information	1,987	
Natural resources and mining	1,806	
Professional, scientific, and technical services	1,668	
Private education services	1,590	

- First time that health care did not top the list of industries by total number of vacancies. Will this last?
- Leisure and hospitality restaurants and ski areas reported strong seasonal hiring.
- Construction vacancies bounced back after two relatively weak quarters in the vacancy survey data.



By Occupation – top occupations reflect holiday hiring.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Occupation Group, Fall 2018

Occupation Group	Vacancies	
All Occupations	60,508	
Food Preparation and Serving Related	6,161	
Transportation and Material Moving	6,126	
Office and Administrative Support	5,724	
Business and Financial Operations	5,559	
Production	4,922	
Sales and Related	4,768	
Construction and Extraction	4,747	
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	3,963	
Personal Care and Service	3,093	
Management	2,857	
Education, Training, and Library	1,709	
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	1,531	
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	1,528	
Community and Social Service	1,476	
Health Care Practitioners and Technical	1,430	
Computer and Mathematical	1,299	
Protective Service	1,218	
Health Care Support	1,155	
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	668	
Architecture and Engineering	298	
Life, Physical, and Social Science	225	
Legal	51	

The occupations with the largest number of vacancies included:

- Truck drivers
- Retail salespersons
- Personal care aides
- Combined food and prep workers
- Cashiers
- Wholesale and retail buyers



Offering starting wages averaged \$18.77 per hour.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range

Wage (per hour)	Fall 2017	Fall 2018
All Wage Ranges	54,329	60,508
Less than \$15	22,533	25,436
\$15 through \$24.99	13,142	16,292
\$25 and up	8,118	8,528

uknown excluded

- Job vacancies rose across all three wage categories.
- Largest rate of growth in job vacancies with starting wages between \$15 and \$25 (+24%).



Job openings across the state.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Region, Fall 2018

	Vacancies
Oregon Statewide	60,508
Portland Metro	12,906
Clackamas	10,282
Central Oregon/East Cascades	6,980
Lane	6,405
Mid-Valley	6,236
Rogue Valley	6,055
Northwest Oregon	2,657
Eastern Oregon	2,467
Southwestern Oregon	2,193
multi-area or unknown excluded	

Businesses in both Clackamas and the East Cascades reported relatively strong seasonal hiring in leisure and hospitality.



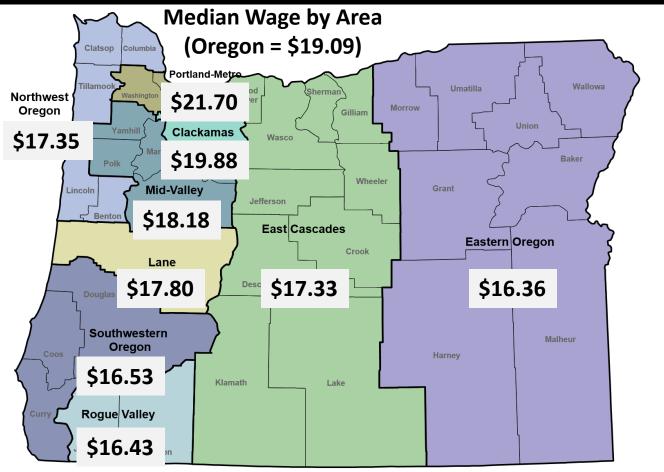
What's A High-Wage Job?



Tools For Describing Occupational Wages

- Wage distributions for 755 occupations, statewide.
- Wage distributions for all nine local workforce areas.
 - Available for fewer occupations at the local level.
- Percentiles: 10th, 25th, 50th (median), 75th, 90th
- Averages.
- Based on survey of employers.
 - National program coordinated by Bureau of Labor Statistics.
 - Oregon has one of the best response rates in the nation!







Tools For Describing Occupational Wages

Wage Distribution for All Occupations

2018 HOURLY WAGES

				2018 Annual			
Workforce Region	10th Percentile	25th Percentile	50th Percentile (Median)	75th Percentile	90th Percentile	Mean (Average)	Mean FTE (Average)
Oregon Statewide	\$11.41	\$13.18	\$19.09	\$30.32	\$46.78	\$25.18	\$52,380
Clackamas	\$12.29	\$13.67	\$19.88	\$30.47	\$47.44	\$25.88	\$53,826
East Cascades	\$11.31	\$12.53	\$17.33	\$25.70	\$39.35	\$22.15	\$46,074
Eastern Oregon	\$11.22	\$12.20	\$16.36	\$24.07	\$34.61	\$20.27	\$42,143
Lane	\$11.45	\$12.51	\$17.80	\$27.04	\$40.19	\$22.88	\$47,587
Mid-Valley	\$11.48	\$12.62	\$18.18	\$27.86	\$41.14	\$23.18	\$48,220
Northwest Oregon	\$11.40	\$12.31	\$17.35	\$26.67	\$41.32	\$22.74	\$47,290
Portland-Metro	\$12.31	\$14.35	\$21.70	\$35.38	\$52.82	\$28.39	\$59,054
Rogue Valley	\$11.41	\$12.26	\$16.43	\$24.22	\$37.70	\$21.38	\$44,474
Southwestern Oregon	\$11.17	\$12.08	\$16.53	\$23.80	\$34.93	\$20.63	\$42,914

Source: Oregon Employment Department, Oregon Wage Information 2018



"Above Median" to Describe High-Wage Occupations

- We're not required to use the median for high wage.
 - Any amount could be used.
- Using "above median" for high-wage occupations lists since 2007.
 - Oregon Workforce Investment Board
 - Department of Education Professional Technical staff
- Easy to understand, explain, and measure.
- Broad. Using the median sets some parameters.





Nick Beleiciks, State Employment Economist

Nick.J.Beleiciks@Oregon.gov 503-947-1267

Get the latest workforce and economic research delivered to your inbox!

Sign up at https://www.qualityinfo.org/p-sofrm/

Join the conversation:

OregonEmployment.Blogspot.com
Twitter @OED Research

