



Help Wanted in Eastern Oregon

**Results from the 2020
Job Vacancy Survey**



Eastern Oregon had roughly 2,500 job vacancies at any given time in 2020.

We surveyed 1,300 private employers with two or more employees.

If they were hiring, employers gave details about each vacancy, including:

- Job title
- Full- or part-time status
- Permanent or temporary status
- Starting wage or salary
- Educational and experience requirements

Businesses also identified if their vacancies were difficult to fill, and if so, they wrote in the primary reason they faced hiring challenges.



Overall, Oregon businesses reported roughly 44,400 vacancies at any given time in 2020.

Oregon Job Vacancies

	2019	2020
Vacancies	57,241	44,408
Average Hourly Wage	\$18.81	\$18.05
Full-time Positions	77%	79%
Permanent Positions	93%	92%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	34%	33%
Requiring Previous Experience	57%	53%
Difficult to Fill	57%	51%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Vacancies dropped 22% from the level in 2019. Employers continued to hire throughout the COVID pandemic.

2020 was not a typical year for Oregon businesses, yet many of the characteristics Oregon employers are looking for didn't change much during the pandemic recession.

A typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time, permanent position. About one-third require education beyond high school and half require previous experience.



Starting in spring 2020, employers were asked “Is this location closed or operations curtailed due to COVID-19 restrictions?”

- Nearly one out of five responses (18%) indicated a closure or curtailment due to COVID-19 in spring 2020. The share dropped to 7% in summer and 6% of respondents to the fall 2020 survey.
- The leisure and hospitality and other services industries most often responded that operations were affected.
- Employers in the Portland-metro area and Northwest Oregon reported the highest shares of affected businesses.

Private health care and social assistance reported the most vacancies of any industry.

Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies by Industry, 2020

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
All Industries	2,527
Health care and social assistance	726
Manufacturing	328
Retail trade	307
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	294
Natural resources and mining	206
Construction	130
Leisure and hospitality	120
Other services	116
Professional, scientific, and technical services	102
Management, administrative, and waste services	85
Financial activities	70
Wholesale trade	43



Transportation and material moving occupations represented the group with the most vacancies.

Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies by Occupation Group, 2020

<u>Occupation Group</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
All Occupations	2,527
Transportation and Material Moving	549
Health Care Support	326
Sales and Related	193
Production	186
Health Care Practitioners and Technical	164
Community and Social Service	163
Construction and Extraction	153
Office and Administrative Support	147
Food Preparation and Serving Related	145
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	144
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	124
Management	70
Personal Care and Service	43
Business and Financial Operations	39
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	38
Protective Service	13
Education, Training, and Library	10
Architecture and Engineering	10
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	10



Area businesses were hiring for a variety of jobs across the economy in 2020. They reported vacancies for 109 different occupations.

Top Eastern Oregon Occupations With the Highest Number of Job Vacancies, 2020

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
All Occupations	2,527
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	284
Personal Care Aides	139
Packers and Packagers, Hand	107
Nursing Assistants	103
Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	102
Production Workers, All Other	99
Retail Salespersons	98
Registered Nurses	81
Construction Laborers	60
Cooks, Restaurant	56
Medical Assistants	52
Automotive and Watercraft Service Attendants	50
Customer Service Representatives	48
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	45
Social and Human Service Assistants	45
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	40



Some occupational vacancies are more difficult to fill than others.

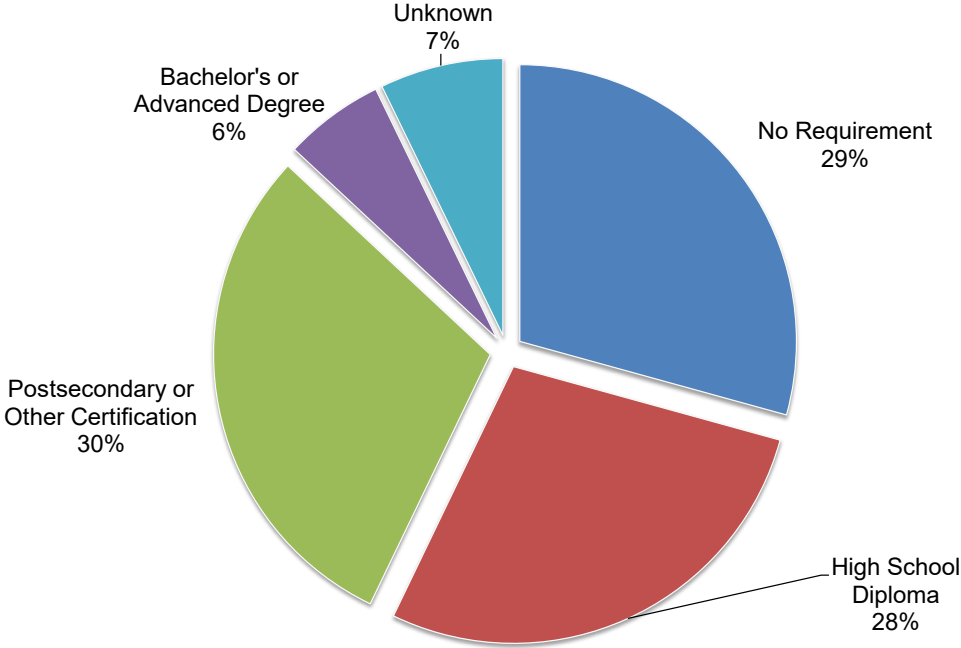
Top Eastern Oregon Occupations With the Highest Number of Difficult-to-Fill Job Vacancies, 2020

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
Difficult-to-Fill Vacancies in All Occupations	1,770
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	272
Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	99
Packers and Packagers, Hand	97
Registered Nurses	81
Production Workers, All Other	66
Construction Laborers	60
Retail Salespersons	48
Personal Care Aides	47
Social and Human Service Assistants	42
Nursing Assistants	41
Automotive and Watercraft Service Attendants	40
Cooks, Restaurant	36
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	35
Carpenters	30
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	30
Electricians	30



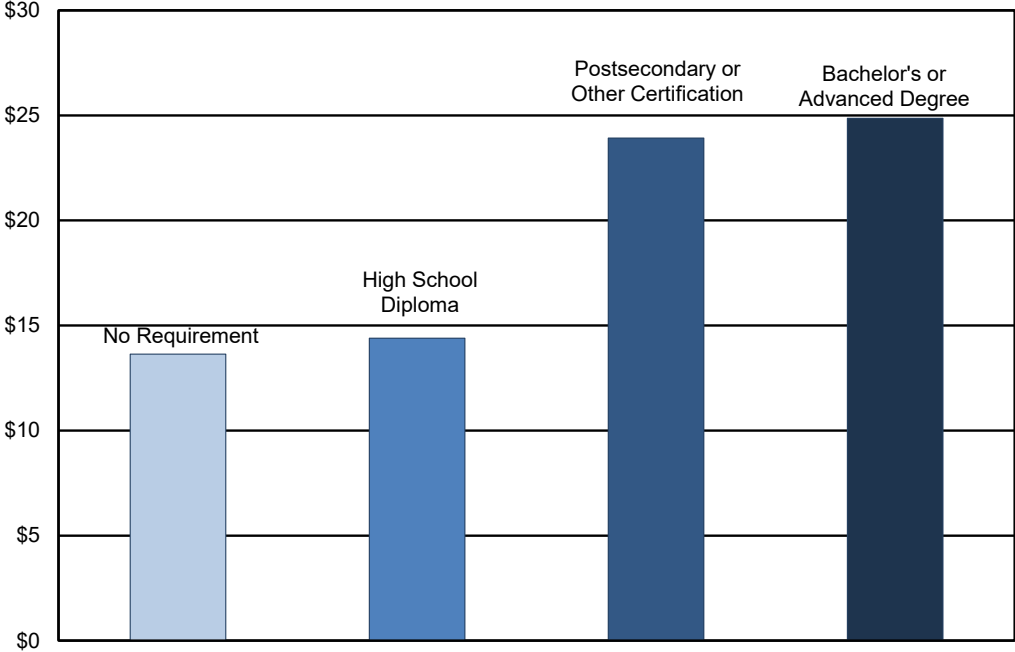
More than half (57%) of Eastern Oregon job vacancies required no education beyond high school.

Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies by Education Requirement, 2020



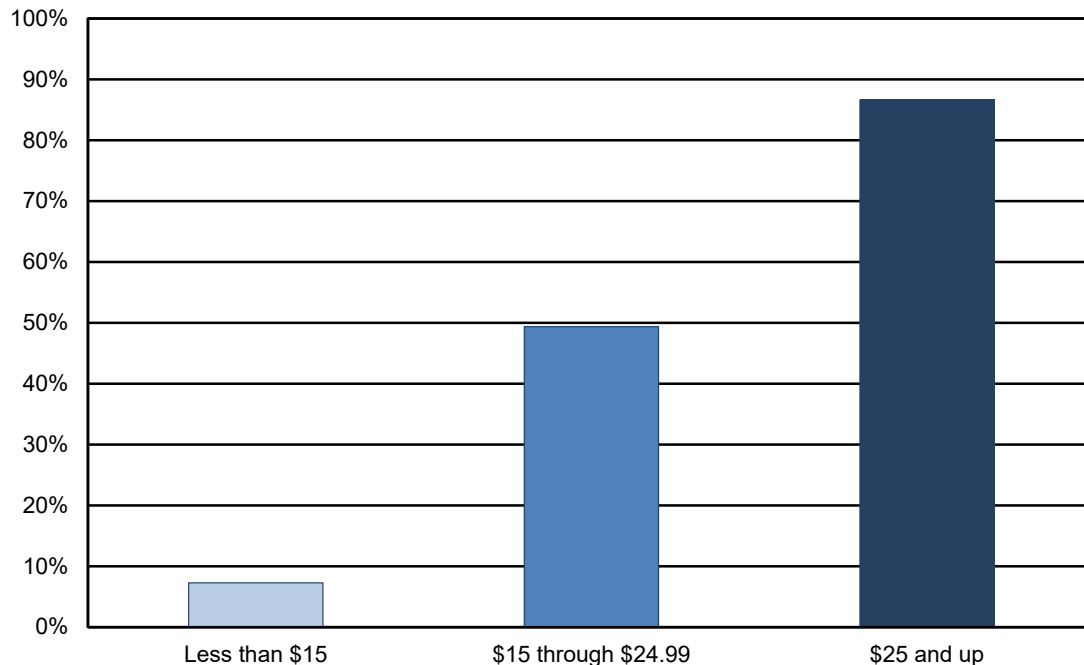
Average hourly wages generally increase along with education requirements for job vacancies...

Average Hourly Wage for Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies by Education Requirement, 2020



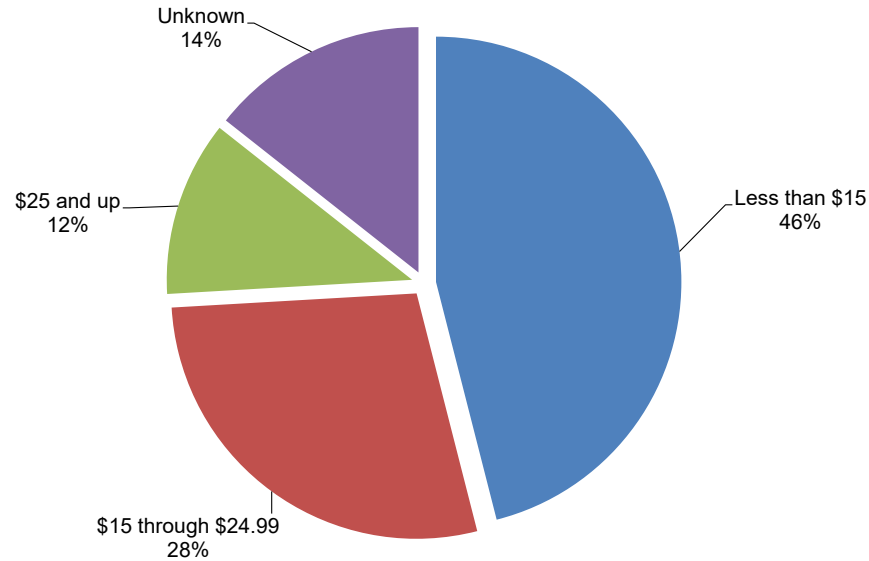
...and high-paying vacancies are more likely to require education beyond high school.

Share of Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies Requiring Education Beyond High School by Hourly Wage Range, 2020



46% of the vacancies in Eastern Oregon pay less than \$15 per hour.

Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage, 2020



Vacancies requiring higher education are more likely to be high-paying, full-time, and require previous experience.

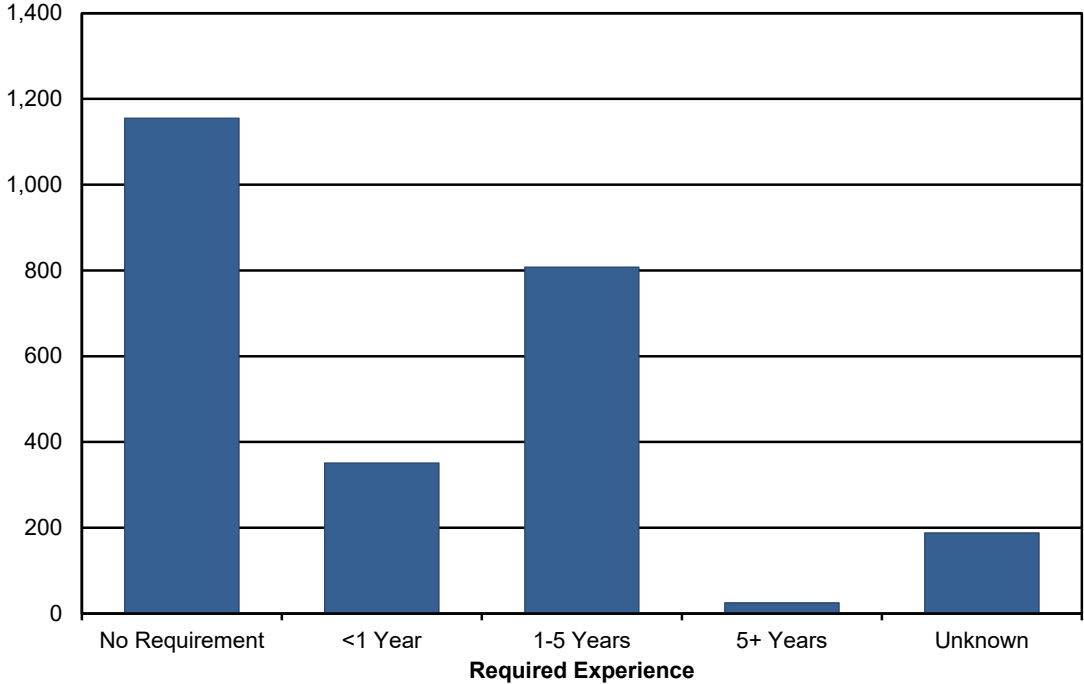
Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies by Required Education Level, 2020

Required Education Level	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage	Full-time Positions	Permanent Positions	Requiring Previous Experience	Difficult to Fill
All Education Levels	2,527	\$17.13	83%	90%	47%	70%
No Requirement	740	\$13.64	75%	84%	35%	69%
High School Diploma	704	\$14.40	85%	93%	42%	67%
Postsecondary or Other Certification	753	\$23.92	90%	95%	63%	84%
Bachelor's or Advanced Degree	148	\$24.87	84%	89%	90%	78%
Unknown	182	\$12.80	71%	76%	10%	21%



Just under half (47%) of the Eastern Oregon vacancies require previous work experience.

Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies Experience Requirement, 2020



High-paying vacancies are more likely to require a combination of education and previous experience.

Eastern Oregon Job Vacancies by Hourly Wage Range, 2020

Wage (per hour)	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage	Full-time Positions	Permanent Positions	Requiring Education Beyond High School	Requiring Previous Experience	Difficult to Fill
All Wage Ranges	2,527	\$17.13	83%	90%	38%	47%	70%
Less than \$15	1,163	\$12.51	75%	85%	7%	21%	69%
\$15 through \$24.99	709	\$18.01	85%	91%	49%	73%	70%
\$25 and up	292	\$33.39	95%	99%	87%	72%	99%
Unknown	363		93%	94%	88%	58%	49%



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

Two out of five vacancies in Oregon were in the Portland Tri-County (Portland Metro and Clackamas) area.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, 2020

Geography	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage	Full-time Positions	Permanent Positions	Require Education Beyond High School	Require Previous Experience	Difficult to Fill
Oregon Statewide	44,408	\$18.05	79%	92%	33%	53%	51%
Portland Metro	13,429	\$19.14	86%	96%	38%	50%	33%
Mid-Valley	6,995	\$17.53	72%	92%	29%	58%	52%
East Cascades	4,402	\$17.52	79%	89%	32%	51%	60%
Lane	4,029	\$17.54	75%	88%	35%	52%	61%
Clackamas	3,921	\$19.23	80%	93%	28%	55%	49%
Rogue Valley	3,749	\$16.77	72%	95%	29%	56%	65%
Eastern Oregon	2,527	\$17.13	83%	90%	38%	47%	70%
Northwest Oregon	2,255	\$17.64	67%	85%	30%	49%	67%
Southwestern Oregon	2,195	\$17.25	73%	92%	34%	56%	68%
Multi-area or unknown	906	\$21.29	94%	86%	50%	72%	48%





Chris Rich, Regional Economist
Oregon Employment Department
Christopher.M.Rich@oregon.gov
(541) 963-7111

Find the latest workforce and economic research at QualityInfo.org, or
join the conversation on Twitter [@OED_Research](https://twitter.com/OED_Research).

