



Help Wanted in Oregon

Results from the Fall 2019

Job Vacancy Survey



Oregon businesses reported 51,100 vacancies in fall 2019.

Oregon Job Vacancies, Fall 2019

Vacancies	51,135
Average Hourly Wage	\$19.19
Full-time Positions	76%
Permanent Positions	96%
Requiring Education Beyond High School	36%
Requiring Previous Experience	56%
Difficult to Fill	54%

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Total job openings fell from the level in the summer (-19%). Vacancies also dropped over the year (-15%).

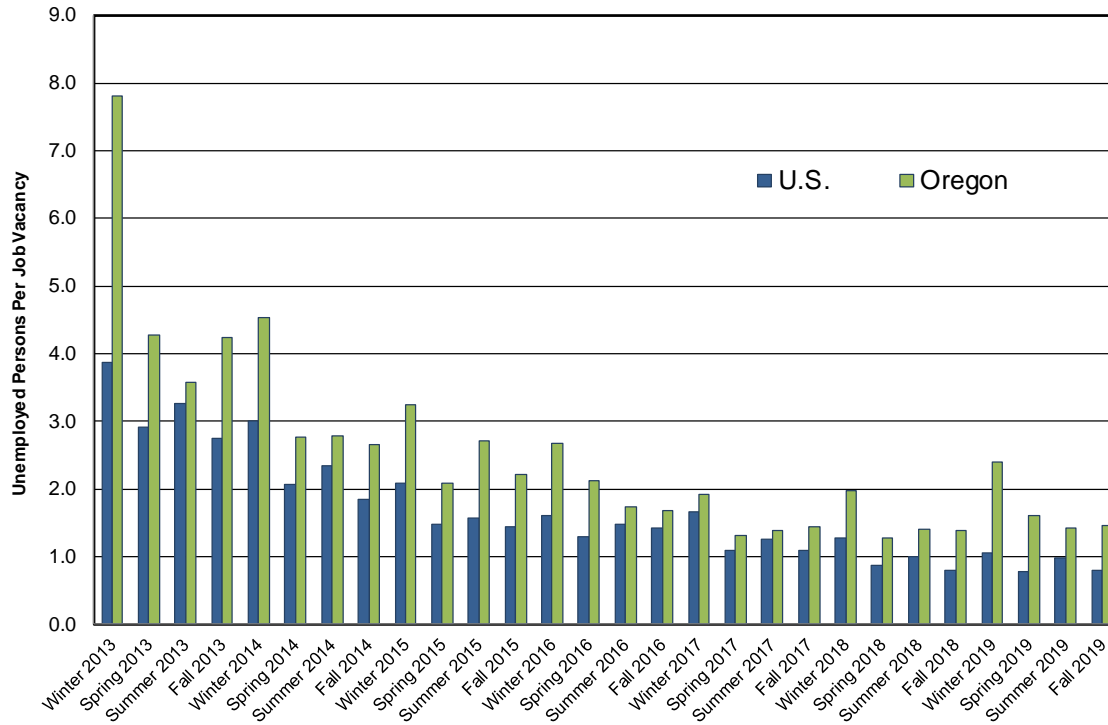
A typical job vacancy tends to be for a full-time, permanent position.

Firms with two to 19 employees represented 37 percent of Oregon vacancies, matching the average share of vacancies provided by small businesses since 2015.



The labor market remains 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, Fall 2019

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
All Industries	51,135
Health care and social assistance	8,340
Retail trade	7,128
Leisure and hospitality	6,624
Construction	6,204
Manufacturing	4,106
Other services	3,609
Administrative, management, and waste services	3,488
Professional and technical services	2,603
Transportation, warehousing, and utilities	2,178
Wholesale trade	2,073
Natural resources and mining	1,771
Financial activities	1,266
Information	1,164
Private educational services	581

Source: Oregon Employment Department

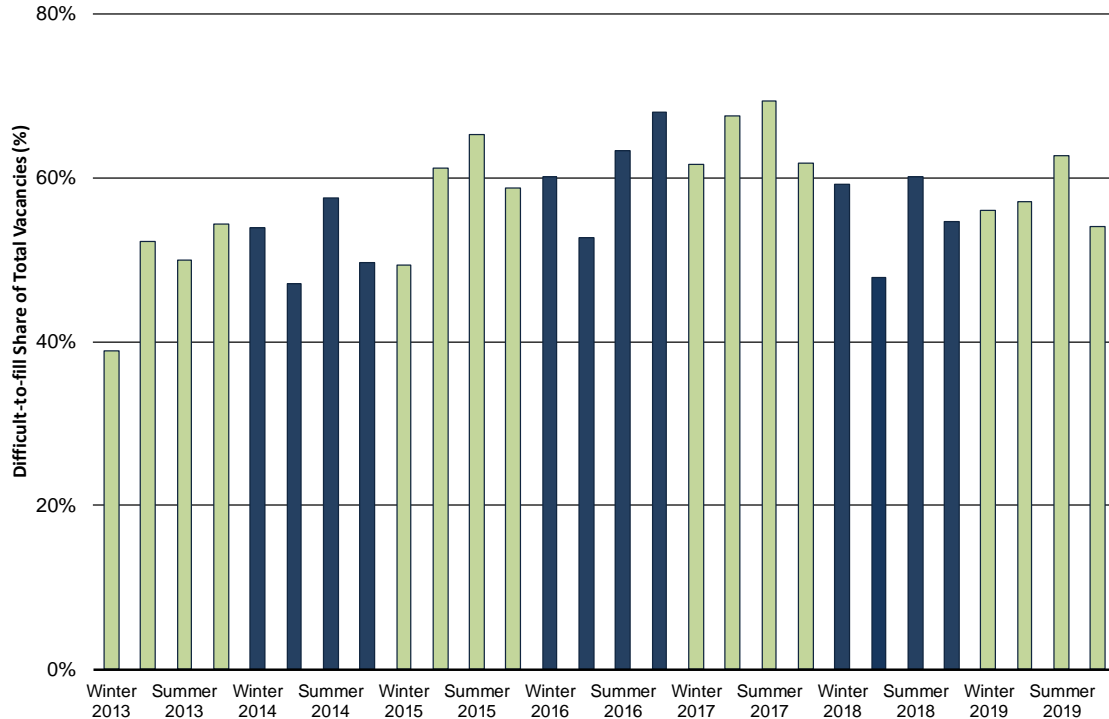
Private health care and social assistance reported the most vacancies in the fall, accounting for 16 percent of all job openings. Retail trade boosted hiring in the fall holiday shopping season, with 14 percent of the total.

Hiring remained broad-based across the economy, with at least 2,000 vacancies in 10 private industry sectors.



The majority of job vacancies are reported as difficult to fill.

Businesses Report Difficulty Filling Six of 10 Vacancies in 2019



In a long economic expansion with more than three years at or near record low unemployment rates, the most common reasons employers cite for difficulty filling vacancies include unfavorable working conditions and a lack of applicants.



The starting wage for job vacancies averaged \$19.19 per hour in the fall.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Required Education Level, Fall 2019

Required Education Level	Vacancies	Average Hourly Wage
All Education Levels	51,135	\$19.19
No Requirement	13,921	\$13.61
High School Diploma	14,631	\$15.08
Postsecondary Training	1,018	\$20.52
Associate Degree	2,008	\$21.58
Bachelor Degree	3,473	\$29.40
Graduate Degree	429	\$28.48
Other	9,225	\$29.40
Unknown	6,430	\$20.71

Source: Oregon Employment Department

Inflation-adjusted average starting wages stayed steady between fall 2018 and fall 2019.

While total vacancies decreased by 15 percent from fall 2018, vacancies requiring associate degrees (+700) or other non-degree training and certifications (+500) increased.



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

Metropolitan areas of the state saw the most hiring demand in the fall.

Oregon Job Vacancies by Geography, Fall 2019

<u>Geography</u>	<u>Vacancies</u>
Oregon Statewide	51,135
Portland Metro	13,775
Clackamas	6,983
Lane	6,204
Mid-Valley	5,813
East Cascades	5,810
Rogue Valley	3,864
Northwest Oregon	3,327
Eastern Oregon	2,039
Southwestern Oregon	1,916
<i>multi-area or unknown excluded</i>	

Overall vacancies fell 15 percent since fall 2018, with declines in the Rogue Valley and Clackamas County. Northwest Oregon had significantly more vacancies in the fall than at this time last year.

Source: Oregon Employment Department





Gail Krumenauer

State Employment Economist

Gail.K.Krumenauer@oregon.gov

(503) 947-1268

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

